Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Patrick Calvo's application for parole denied. PAGE 2

CHCC board decries CEO's continued lack of cooperation. PAGE 5

2nd lawsuit over casino law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private citizen filed a lawsuit in Superior Court yesterday in a bid to invalidate the Saipan casino law by having it declared null and void due to alleged violations of the Open Government Act when it was enacted.

See LAWSUIT on Page 4

$30K eyed for suspended salary hikes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lifting the austerity measures that have been in place since 2001 under the term of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio has set in motion the review and planned implementation of salary increases that Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday would cost only some $30,000 for just about three dozen civil service employees.

This, however, does not cover within-grade increases, among other things, which the governor said could cost the government between $5 million and $6 million a year.

"What happened was, some people have been

See SALARY on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
➤ Civil Service Commission to lift salary increase suspension. PAGE 7

E-gaming licenses out soon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Electronic gaming licenses could be issued as early as this week or five months since this type of gaming became law, even as controversies related to the Saipan exclusive casino license application process continue that include Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s objection to Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc.'s presentation today and a second lawsuit over the casino law.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that electronic gaming licenses could be issued in the "very immediate future… maybe this week."

The governor's fiscal year 2015 proposed budget already includes $2.5 million in projected revenues from electronic gaming fees.

There are at different types of licenses that are required for electronic gaming to finally get off the ground—electronic game license, which is $2,500 a year, or 15 percent of net gaming revenues paid monthly; electronic game site operator license, which is $100,000 annually, or 1 percent of net gaming revenues, whichever is greater; and electronic game supplier license.

Also required are electronic game operator and electronic game supplier employee licenses.

"It's a process…It's a controlled industry. You just don't buy from underground sellers because the machines must have integrity. You just don't buy it from an

See LICENSES on Page 4

'A TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEROES'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider are flanked by veterans and families of fallen soldiers at yesterday's signing of a proclamation declaring May 19 to 26 Memorial Week, in honor of fallen members of the armed forces that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The governor calls on the community to a week of prayer for permanent peace and to pay tribute to fallen heroes for their "unselfish, dedicated service in defending our country."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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BEFORE THE CW PROGRAM EXPIRES ON DEC. 31, 2014

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you like the new site of this year's Taste of the Marianas food festival?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

Vietnam and China are playing a tense game on the high seas.

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LIFE & STYLE

The King of Pop and Justin Timberlake rule the Billboard Music Awards.

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Local

CHANGING THE ODDS
Members of the CNMI Alliance for College and Career Readiness from the Department of Labor, Public School System, and Northern Marianas College complete the first of three scheduled trainings facilitated by McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds, focused on defining key college and career readiness indicators for the CNMI.

NMC

Patrick Calvo's application for parole denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole has denied convicted child molester Patrick Mendiola Calvo's application for parole.

Chief of Parole Joseph T. Guerrero said yesterday that the board had determined that Calvo's release is not compatible with public safety and security.

Guerrero said the board also ruled that Calvo's release at this time "would belittle the seriousness of his crime and promote disrespect for the law."

He said board members deliberated and reviewed on Thursday all the testimonials and information they had on hand before deciding on the parole applications of Calvo and four others.

Calvo's case was deliberated on by board chair Ramon B. Camacho, and members Wally Villagomez, Steven Mesngon, Antonio Borja, and Joe Camacho.

The board held the parole hearing last Wednesday.

The victim and her family as well as the Office of the Attorney General and advocates against sexual abuse strongly opposed Calvo's petition for parole during an emotional hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Those opposed to Calvo's parole application described him as a monster, a serial sex offender, and a pedophile.

The Department of Corrections described Calvo as a great asset as he worked on the opening of a library and other programs. DOC officials trust him and call him a trustee inmate.

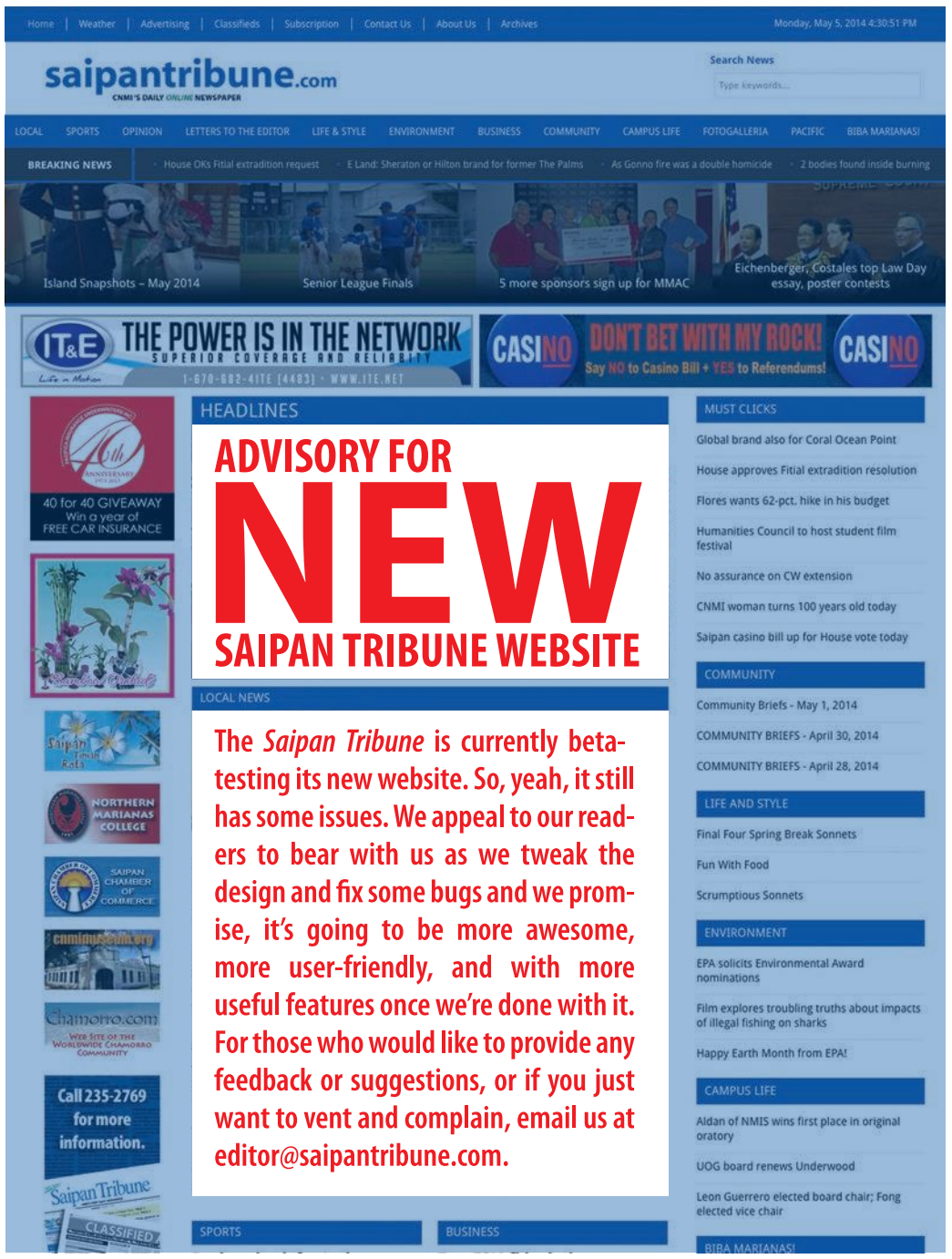
The victim's mother, however, pointed out, among other things, that Calvo has many accomplishments at DOC because he has a hidden agenda and is good at manipulating everyone.

Calvo's two brothers, a neighbor, and a relative, on the other hand, urged the board to approve Calvo's application.

A Superior Court jury found Calvo guilty in September 2009 of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in 2008. He was sentenced in 2010 to eight years in prison.

Calvo, 51, has appealed his conviction and eight-year prison sentence to the CNMI Supreme Court. He wants a new jury trial.

Meanwhile, the board granted the applications for parole requested by inmates Terrence A. Fitial, Daniel N. Sablan Jr., Franklin Jesse Atalig, and Leon Joaquin Sanchez.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BARELY 3 MONTHS SINCE PARTY REORGANIZATION

Democratic Party chairman quits, goes to Babauta's team to run as representative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Benjamin M. Cepeda stepped down as chairman of the Democratic Party and plans to seek a House of Representatives seat representing Precinct 1 under the independent gubernatorial team of former governor Juan N. Babauta and former senator Juan S. Torres.

Cepeda's resignation comes barely three months since the Democratic Party reorganized, elected its new set of officers, and launched a membership drive.

Sources said Cepeda stepped down over "infighting" within the party, and that he was "not given respect that he deserves as chairman."

Former representative Rosiky F. Camacho has replaced Cepeda as the Democratic Party's new central executive committee chairman, Democrat Jesse Taisague confirmed yesterday.

The Babauta camp separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday Cepeda's move to their fold. "We welcome everybody," one of them said in a phone interview.

Top officials with the Babauta camp did not want to elaborate, and asked that the media contact Cepeda directly. Cepeda could not be reached as of press time yesterday. He previously ran for Precinct 1 but didn't win.

In mid-March, the Democratic Party officially announced their gubernatorial candidates for the November elections: candidate for governor Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, a longtime Democrat and former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director, and former representative Daniel Quitugua as lieutenant governor bet. At the launching, Cepeda said the Democratic Party took the lead in exploring options to improve political and economic opportunities in the '50s to the '80s.

Meanwhile, on Friday afternoon, Democratic Party candidates led by Deleon Guerrero and Quitugua, along with delegate candidate Andrew Salas, issued a press release stating their stand on Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution.

In the press release, they said they are "vehemently opposed to any attempt, by anyone, to change, amend or remove the mandatory restrictions on land alienation in Article 12…" The full text of the Democratic Party candidates' press release will be published in full in Wednesday's paper.

IN GUARD'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT SUIT VS BARCINAS

Judge finds accuser not credible; 3 alleged assaults did not occur

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has determined that a security guard who filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas and the Public School System is simply not credible and that the three alleged sexual assaults did not occur.

Manglona said she finds that Homayan Kabir aggressively searched for witnesses for the sexual assault charges and didn't care whether they lied.

Manglona also determined that Kabir needed money and this was a substantial factor in bringing his lawsuit.

"For these reasons, the court finds his testimony not credible," said the judge in her findings of fact dated Aug. 29, 2013.

Manglona filed the findings under seal. On Thursday, she unsealed her findings as she dismissed the lawsuit after Kabir, Barcinas, and PSS reached a confidential settlement.

Manglona made the determination after conducting an evidentiary hearing on June 25 and 26, 2013, and closing arguments on July 1, 2013.

When asked for comments about the judge's determination, attorney Joseph Horey, counsel for Kabir, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Manglona's ruling covered only one of the four claims in the case.

Horey said Kabir disagrees with Manglona's findings, but understands that it can sometimes be difficult to know who to believe in a "he-said, he-said" case like this.

Horey said that Kabir's other three claims would still have gone to the jury if the case had not settled.

"As we know from criminal cases, the judge and jury sometimes disagree. The jury may well have taken a more favorable view of Kabir's credibility than Judge Manglona did, especially considering that some new evidence only came to light after her ruling," he said.

Anyway, the lawyer said, the issue is now moot since the parties have reached a settlement that is reasonable and acceptable to all sides.

"Kabir is glad to have finally come to an end of this matter," Horey added.

At the evidentiary hearing, the court heard the testimony of nine witnesses: Three for Kabir (Kabir himself, his wife, Cynthia Attao, MD Moklesur Rahman) and six for Barcinas (Elphedia Sablan, James Ramon, Efrin Borja, Johnny Sam, and Hermana Ling).

At the hearing, Kabir testified that Barcinas sexually assaulted him three times in 2005—once in June, once in July, and once in September.

Barcinas denied the allegations.

Kabir owned Eagle Security Services, a company hired to provide security services to Dandan Elementary School. He also worked as a security guard for the company.

Kabir is married to Attao, who is related to both Barcinas and witness Elphedia Sablan. At the time, Barcinas was the school's principal and Sablan worked with Attao at the governor's office. Ramon was a teacher at Dandan Elementary School, while Borja and Sam were both school bus drivers.

In finding Kabir's testimony not credible, Manglona said bus drivers Borja and Sam both testified that Kabir came to them looking for a witness for his sexual assault charges. To both, Kabir said he would pay them $5,000 or $10,000, and that the money was to come from the winnings from his lawsuit.

Borja testified that Kabir said he could not find a job anywhere, and that was why he was suing. Borja also testified that Kabir told him to make up a story, which Borja took to mean that Kabir wanted him to lie.

Sam testified that Kabir also aggressively sought him as a witness, and they met twice. Sam found the first meeting so odd that he secretly taped the second meeting.

It is unclear whether Kabir told Sam that he wanted him to lie, but Kabir did say at the second meeting that he did not want any lying, which he did not say at the first meeting.

Manglona said another motivating factor for this lawsuit is spite.

"Kabir was a poor security guard and was also poor at completing the paperwork necessary for the job. This suggests that he was not involuntarily assaulted, and therefore, diminishes his credibility," Manglona said.

The judge noted that Barcinas explained that he only hired Kabir to help his cousin Attao.

Manglona said the Dandan school was vandalized during Eagle Security's service—13 classrooms were burglarized—and Barcinas credibly testified about numerous occasions where Kabir's paperwork was deficient.

Barcinas also testified about an incident in August 2006, about a year after the three alleged sexual assaults, where Barcinas argued with Kabir in his office over his time sheets. Barcinas believed Kabir was lying on his time sheets and confronted him about it and shouting ensued. Kabir called Barcinas a liar. Barcinas told him to get out of his office. Afterwards, teacher Ramon entered Barcinas' office.

Manglona said Ramon corroborated this event. Ramon also testified that he heard Kabir repeatedly say that he would sue Barcinas.

The judge also found Attao's testimony not credible for several reasons.

One reason cited was that Attao testified that in 2005 she knew Barcinas sexually assaulted Kabir. Yet Sablan's testimony indicated that, in 2006, Attao did not know this, Manglona said.

Manglona said Attao never addressed this deficiency, despite being recalled to the stand after Sablan's testimony.

"For this reason, the court finds Attao's testimony lacking credibility," the judge added.

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Kim-Tenorio recuses from Fitial case

The criminal case filed against former governor Benigno R. Fitial has been re-assigned to Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja re-assigned the case after Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio recused herself from presiding over the matter "in an abundance of caution to avoid any appearance of partiality."

In an order on Wednesday, Kim-Tenorio said she served as legal counsel to the lieutenant governor during Fitial's term as governor.

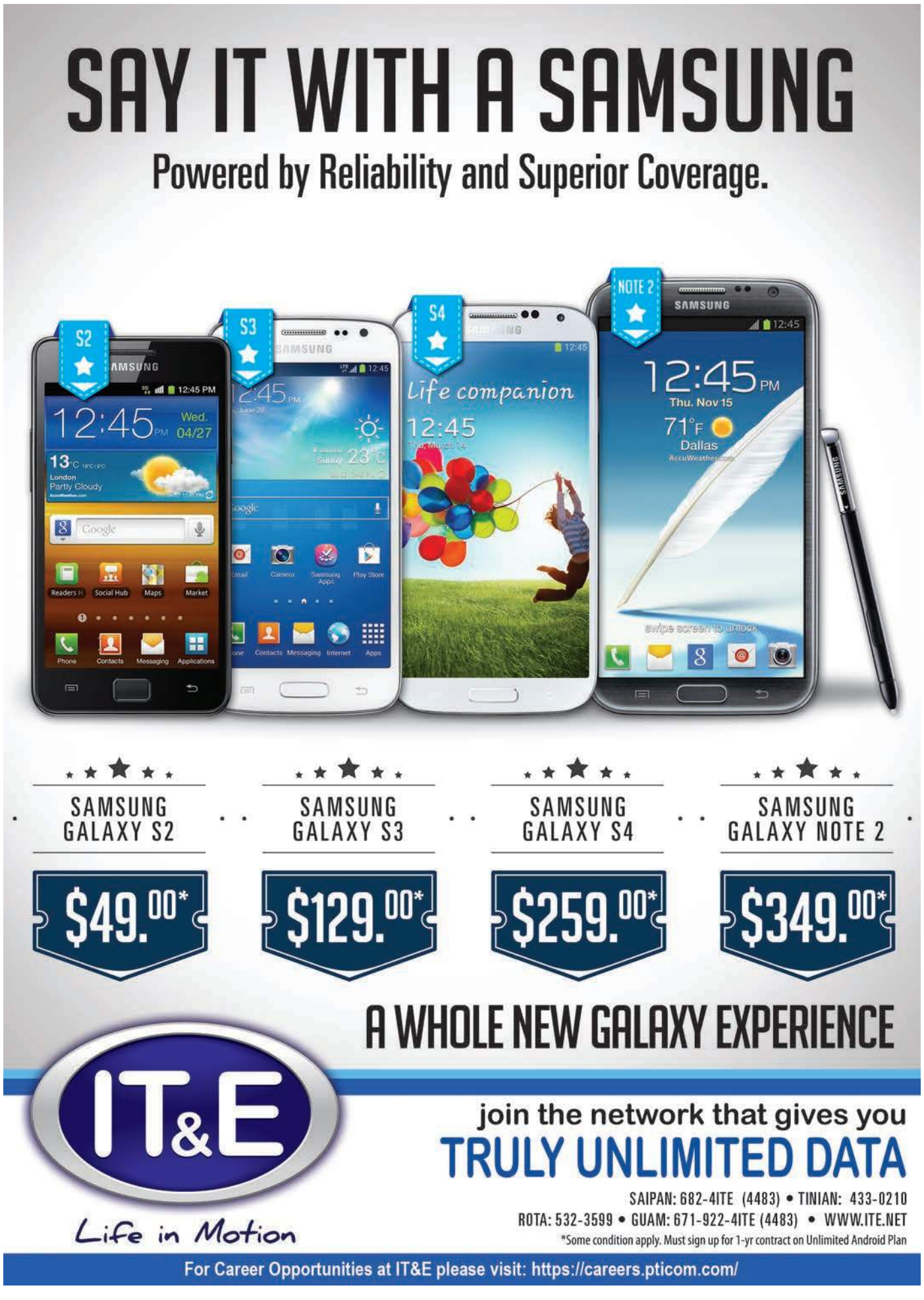
Kim-Tenorio returned the case to Naraja for reassignment to another judge.

Fitial recently left the CNMI for the Philippines, reportedly to see his doctor.

Fitial pleaded not guilty to all 10 criminal charges filed against him by the CNMI government.

The information charged the 68-year-old Fitial with one count of solicitation of escape, five counts of misconduct in public office, one count of conspiracy to commit escape, one count of use of public position to obtain benefits for business or social acquaintances, one count of conspiracy to commit theft of services, and one count of theft of services.

The charges were related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate, award of a sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract, and shielding of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Guerrero balks at CPUC position on PSS rates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero is opposed to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's position that a rate petition must be filed with the regulatory body for a public law to be formally implemented by the utilities corporation.

This comes in the wake of a CPUC letter to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. clarifying that utility rates set by the Legislature are not exempt from the rate review proceedings of the commission.

The to-do arises from the enactment of Public Law 18-19 in September last year, which mandates CUC to change the water and wastewater rates of public schools from government to commercial. This in effect would lower the utility costs of public schools.

In its letter to CUC, the utility commission said that when the Legislature enacts a rate, a regulated entity should initiate a rate-setting proceeding with CPUC, which would either approve, disapprove, or modify the legislative rate.

BOE's Guerrero disagrees with this determination, claiming that there's a need to revisit the CPUC opinion.

"The CPUC as well as the CUC were created by the Legislature. Are they saying that the Legislature doesn't have the authority on CUC? I think there's a need to revisit that [CPUC] opinion," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to him, with these gray areas in the implementation of P.L. 18-19, the Office of the Attorney General's legal opinion must be sought.

"Why create another layer of bureaucracy when the action of the Legislature can be construed already an official request? It seems to me that it's the CPUC opinion that it has greater authority over the Legislature [in this matter]. We have to seek AG's opinion and interpretation on [P.L. 18-19]," said Guerrero.

He said concerns over the law's implementation were brought to the table at a recent meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

"We raised this issue with the governor at one time and he told us to follow the law and that's what we're doing. We are not violating the law so we're disputing any differences [on the CUC billing]," he said.

If parties don't agree with the OAG's opinion, another avenue to clear the gray areas is to submit a certified question with the Supreme Court, Guerrero said.

Prior to the enactment of P.L. 18-19, PSS was charged a government rate for its water and wastewater. The law changed this to commercial rate, which reduced by 98.4 percent the charges for its water and 95.6 percent for its wastewater costs.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan, in a statement last week to *Saipan Tribune*, indicated that CUC is not seeking the OAG's opinion officially.

"However, in my meeting with the PSS board chairman on May 5, he alluded to an AG's opinion on allowing PSS to pay the commercial water and wastewater rates [rather than government rates] without CPUC review and approval," said Sablan.

He added that PSS may have to file a petition with the CPUC for rate review and implementation of that rate. CPUC's review, he added, will look at whether this reduction in the rate for PSS will have any detrimental effect on CUC meeting its operational needs and requirements under stipulated court orders.

Naval Base Guam to test emergency alert system

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will conduct a test of its emergency alert system on June 2, from 3pm to 4 p.m.

During the date and time indicated, the system commonly referred to as the Giant Voice will deliver the following message: "This is only a test for the emergency broadcasting system. No further action required."

Starting June 2, Naval Base Guam is scheduled to conduct tests on the emergency alert system on the first Monday of every month until further notice.

The Giant Voice at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, South Finegayan housing, Flag Circle, I Puntan at Nimitz Hill, North and South Tipalao, Camp Covington, Apra View, Navy Munitions Site, U.S. Coast Guard and Polaris Point will be activated.

Residents and patrons in the surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear increased activity associated with the test. ***(PR)***

CUC emergency declaration extended anew

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended anew on Friday the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. still because of financial crisis that includes some $20 million in uncollected utility payments from government agencies and a continued lack of qualified U.S. technical workers.

In his Executive Order 2014-7, the governor said CUC is owed approximately $20 million by the Public School System and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Residential users also owe the agency millions more.

"Although the commonwealth economy has recently improved, the improvement is only marginal and the economy and the government's finances are still fragile. This government strains to meet its obligations," he said in his four-page executive order.

The CUC emergency declaration, which is in effect for another 30 days, suspends procurement rules and other statutory and regulatory provisions, and allow for reprogramming of funds to respond to the emergency.

The Inos administration has revived the critical CUC board of directors, nine years since the last one was abolished. Previously, a lack of a functioning board was among the reasons for continued emergency declaration for CUC. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

LICENSES

From Page 1

underground [supplier], from anybody," the governor said yesterday.

Inos said this is part of the due diligence process.

Electronic gaming operations will be at Kanoa Resort in Susupe and Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi.

There have been concerns that the government has been slow in issuing electronic gaming licenses.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the electronic gaming bill that became law, said yesterday he has been receiving such concerns from individuals and investor groups.

"The investors are anxious to their license because the investment is substantial. They would have wanted to operate sooner rather than later. If you're the investor, you would want to recoup your investment as soon as possible," Sablan said.

The government also recently amended the electronic gaming regulations to, among other things, raise the cap on the number of electronic game licenses active in a single electronic gaming facility—from 100 to now 175. But the cap on the number of electronic game licenses remains at 1,000 annually.

Electronic gaming machines are allowed only in hotels on Saipan with at least 100 rooms or, if they have fewer than 100 rooms, should be attached to a golf course.

Casino

Meanwhile, readmitted Saipan casino applicant Marianas Stars is scheduled to present portions of its business plan at 10am today before the Lottery Commission and members of the public on Capital Hill.

This presentation is one of two conditions that the commission imposed in reconsidering its earlier decision to reject Marianas Stars' application. The other one is depositing $30 million in escrow by May 19 at 3pm. It was learned that the $30 million had been rewired on Friday.

Best Sunshine is not at all happy with the Lottery Commission's decision to reaccept Marianas Stars. It has asked the commission informally to not allow Marianas Stars to go ahead with its presentation today.

Meanwhile, a second lawsuit over the Saipan casino law was filed yesterday by citizen Glen Hunter, days after attorney Ray Quichocho did the same.

SALARY

From Page 1

promoted and reclassified but were never given the corresponding salary increase. What that does—the lifting of austerity—is to let that go so that people can receive those additional salaries as a result of that [promotion, reclassification]," the governor said in an interview yesterday.

When asked whether the government can now afford these salary adjustments, Inos said, "Yes."

"But that's only a small amount…Probably about $30,000…Only few are affected by this…Maybe about 30," Inos said.

In a statement, the Civil Service Commission said it intends to announce the lifting of its Nov. 8, 2001 suspension on salary increases in the upcoming *Commonwealth Register*.

But this does not affect the ongoing suspension of annual within-grade increases, merit increases and Public Law 10-76 bonuses for employees frozen at Step 12 in their grade.

Tourism arrivals have been picking up, bringing additional revenues to the CNMI coffers. The governor's proposed fiscal year 2015 budget is $134 million, up from the 2014 budget of $123.4 million. Because of an expected 2014 supplemental budget of $12 million, the 2015 budget may even be bigger if there's also going to be a supplemental budget.

But the governor said government agencies and departments still need to spend within their means or stay within their allotted budget, because increases in revenues are mostly going to satisfy the government's annual payments to the retirement settlement trust fund and government health insurance premium.

LAWSUIT

From Page 1

Glen D. Hunter, through attorney Jennifer Dockter, is suing Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan), and several others, claiming that the Saipan casino law was passed without following the requirements of the OGA.

Hunter wants the court to declare that these OGA violations render the casino law null and void. He also sought an injunction that would prevent Inos, the Lottery Commission, and the CNMI government from taking any more acts in furtherance of the alleged illegal casino law.

Named as co-defendants in the case are House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Reps. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan), the Lottery Commission, and the CNMI government.

Hunter claims four violations of the Open Government Act. That law requires specific advance notices to the public whenever the Legislature holds a session or if it intends to act on proposed bills.

According to Dockter, the OGA forbids lawmakers from holding surprise sessions where acts are undertaken as part of a secret agenda.

On Feb. 28, 2014, then acting House speaker Francisco S. Dela Cruz transmitted to the House Clerk's Office a memo that gave notice of an upcoming regular House session on March 3, 2014, at 1:30pm.

Dockter said the Clerk's Office gave the media a copy of the notice and publicly posted it sometime after 3:05pm on Feb. 28, 2014.

The OGA requires that the Legislature "shall file a copy of the meeting notice in its office at least 72 hours before the meeting."

Dockter said the notice and agenda were provided less than 72 hours in advance of the upcoming session, in violation of the law.

On March 3, 2014, at the House's session, Reps. Demapan and Ogumoro introduced House Bill 18-179 (the Saipan casino bill), which was not referred to a House committee. Instead, in violation of OGA's notice requirement, House Bill 18-179 was immediately passed by the House's majority on first and final reading and was transmitted to the Senate, Dockter said.

On Feb. 28, 2014, Senate President Torres gave notice of an upcoming Senate session slated on March 4, 2014 at 2pm.

Dockter said as required by the OGA, the notice included a session agenda, which listed the items to be considered at the meeting. However, the notice and agenda did not include any mention of House Bill 18-179, she said.

Despite this, on March 4, 2014, without giving the public notice that action would be taken on the casino bill, the Senate passed House Bill 18-179 on first and final reading, she said, in violation of OGA's notice requirement.

Inos then signed House Bill 18-179 into law and it became Public Law 18-38.

In signing the bill, Inos pointed out the bill's "shortcomings" but said he was assured that amendments would be adopted.

On March 25, 2014, House Speaker Deleon Guerrero transmitted to the House Clerk's Office a memo that provided notice of a House session slated for the very next day, March 26, at 1:30pm.

On March 26, 2014, at the House's session, Demapan introduced House Bill 18-182 "to amend Public Law 18-38." That same day, in violation of the OGA's notice requirement, Dockter said House majority passed House Bill 18-182 and the bill was transmitted to the Senate.

The next day, March 27, 2014, without any advance notice to the public of any kind about the casino bill, the Senate passed House Bill 18-182, Dockter said.

On April 1, 2014, Inos signed House Bill 18-182, which became Public Law 18-43 and was titled "To amend Public Law 18-38."

Dockter said the governor's signature on a null and void bill has no legal effect.

"The Saipan casino law is null and void," she asserted.

Dockter said that Reps. Demapan and Ogumoro, Senate President Torres, and House Speaker Deleon Guerrero are personally liable for taking action in violation of OGA and deserve civil penalties.

Dockter said that Demapan is liable in the amount of $1,100; Ogumoro, $100; Torres, $1,100; and Deleon Guerrero, $100.

This is the second lawsuit against the Saipan casino law. On Wednesday, lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho filed in Superior Court a taxpayer's lawsuit that questioned the constitutionality of the 2-month-old casino law. He is suing Inos, the CNMI government, and the Lottery Commission.

CHCC board decries CEO's 'continued lack of cooperation'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four of the five members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board were dismayed yesterday over what they described as the continued failure of corporation CEO Esther Muña to work with them.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres, vice chair Pete Dela Cruz, and trustees Philip Mendiola-Long and Roy Rios criticized the absence of Muña, acting CFO Cora Ada, and director for Medical Affairs Dr. Sherleen Osman from yesterday's board meeting. The three were marked as "absent."

The agenda for yesterday's meeting included a host of items, mostly reports due from management. Among these are the updates on finances, line of credit, unpaid obligations to vendors, and hiring updates.

But to the disappointment of the four board members, Muña opted not to participate in the meeting and requests for her to send representatives were ignored.

"A lot of these reports have been requested for over several months and I am quite disappointed with the continuing failure to produce these reports, which are important information in order for the board to provide proper advice," said Torres.

Vice chair Dela Cruz said that by the looks of it, there's no sense of urgency on the part of management to resolve issues at the hospital.

Mendiola-Long said the issue of both the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Marianas Public Land Trust are on the "verge of collapse" and warrant immediate action. Without the necessary information from the CEO, there's nothing the board can do to help find a proper solution, he added.

CUC earlier threatened to disconnect power from the hospital's non-essential services if it fails to pay in full its monthly billing by June 30.

On the MPLT issue, it was disclosed yesterday that the corporation can't drawdown from its $4 million line of credit with MPLT until it hires a CFO.

Without pertinent information, Mendiola-Long said "it is almost impossible for us to have strategic planning, much less a budget, if we can't even create the foundation. We need to make sure the foundation is strong and in order for us to do that, it's either the CEO coming to us with solution [or] have [the board] offer those solutions for her because that's our role as an advisory board."

Mendiola-Long said each trustee was appointed because of their management skills that could help the health agency manage its operations. But without the cooperation of the CEO, there continues to be a disconnect in the organization.

"My point is, it's glaringly quiet. We see issues on CUC, MPLT, personnel, lawsuits, labor issues…but nothing is being communicated to us in a forward-moving motion," he added.

Mendiola-Long further expressed frustration over management's inaction on one issue that, for so long, should have already been addressed.

"I've been on the board for three months and we haven't hired a CFO? It doesn't make sense to me and I am just blown away by that. On top of that, CUC has come in and given us an ultimatum and we haven't been called to a meeting to see how we can help," he said, adding that he gets to know about specific issues only through the media.

The board, he said, needs someone to help through the "process."

"The process is the critical component here. However, even if we go through the process, if the CEO just determines whether she wants to invoke it or not…what's the use of the process? I am really confused on what our role is and what we're supposed to do here. I feel like it's just saying, 'Shut up until you are asked for your opinion here,'" added Mendiola-Long on the role of the advisory board.

He admitted that he had plans of resigning as a trustee.

"I just got off the phone with the AG and I basically said I am not comfortable here anymore. I am to the point of resigning… that's how bad this is here. I was being asked to hold a fiduciary role yet I am serving with members that say they have no decision-making authority in the process. The only reason I continue to stay on is because I see how bad it is and I know I can contribute something," he said.

Special panel created for Muna's evaluation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A special committee specifically tasked to evaluate the performance of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther L. Muna was created yesterday by the CHCC board.

Board Resolution 2014-03 was adopted by a 5-0 vote during yesterday's special meeting. Vice chair Pete Dela Cruz was named as the panel's head; he will select at least three other members on the committee.

Muña was appointed to the position on April 30 last year.

Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* that Muna's evaluation will cover the period from June 30 when she was first appointed in an interim capacity, up to now as a permanent CEO.

The newly-adopted resolution also established the CEO's annual evaluation to fall in October every year. The evaluation will be based on the same format adopted during the time of former CEO Juan N. Babauta.

According to Dela Cruz, "the objective is to see whether she actually does the job and the annual evaluation is a requirement of the law."

When asked on the possible action that will be taken if the evaluation yields unsatisfactory results, Dela Cruz said: "A decision has to be made by the board."

In more than two hours of meeting yesterday, four of the five board members present expressed dissatisfaction with how Muña interacts with the board. Repeated requests for information have always been the concern for most board members.

In an open session yesterday, Roy Rios claimed that the corporation management selects the information or records it provides the board.

"We as a board need to sit down and discuss this issue. If the CEO is reluctant to work with us because she has this mindset of Public Law 16-51 that it's under her discretion to seek the board advice, how are we going to go about this if the CEO decides to ignore us again?" asked Rios.

According to board chair Joaquin Torres and vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, the board will "exercise its authority pursuant to the law."

They pointed out that under Public Law 16-51, "the governor has to accept the board's decision on the removal of the CEO."

On behalf of Sister Remedios ECDC, Sr, Martha is receiving an ETC donation of the First Hawaiian Bank from the Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager Mrs. Victoria B. Concepcion. Our gratitude for this help and for your continued support of our school over the years. God bless!

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

NMHC IFB 2014-002

BID TITLE: "PURCHASING OF FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENTS FOR THE CNMI FIRE DIVISION"

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Proposal packets will be available on April 30, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 - 10:00 a.m.

MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 - 10:00 a.m. – NMHC Conference Room, Saipan

DESCRIPTION: See Exhibit A and A-1

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	) **CIVIL ACTION**) **NO. 11-0209**)
EDWIN B. TUDELA and PATRICIA A. TUDELA, Defendants.	) **NOTICE OF**) **HEARING ON**) **PLAINTIFF'S**) **MOTION FOR**) **DEFAULT**) **JUDGMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 4, 2014 , at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held before Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of April, 2014.

/s / CLERK OF COURT

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **May 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **May 21**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE

You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than **May 21**. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service, Please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or Visit any IT&E CS Center nearest you.

IT&E Life in Motion

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laulau – up to 6:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday May 20, 2014 in the Governor's Conference Room 1st Floor Juan Sablan Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following is the proposed agenda

I. Meeting Called to Order
II. Public Comment
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Presentation by Marianas Stars Entertainment, Inc.
V. Executive Session
VI. Return to Public Session
VII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission at 664-2375.

Kilili recommends $300K for COTA under FTA

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority thanks Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-Saipan) for recommending federal funds for the CNMI that includes $306,000 under the U.S. Federal Transit Administration for fiscal year 2015.

COTA administrator Thomas Camacho said the additional funding would "surely reinstate" the funding level of $1.1 million that would be "applied toward the operating expenses" of the Saipan Fixed-Flex Route and Paratransit Systems including Rota and Tinian, which are scheduled to go online by 2015.

Camacho noted that COTA, as the grant recipient under FTA, received lower funding in fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

According to him, COTA received a reduced award from $1.1 million in fiscal year 2012 Urbanized Area Formula Grant to $816,058 in fiscal year 2013 Rural Formula Apportionment.

"Unfortunately, COTA's fiscal year 2014 rural grant had another decrease to $812,306," Camacho said.

Funding reduction

Camacho said funding level was reduced due to the U.S. 2010 Census results, which affected FTA programs.

"The CNMI population dropped from 69,221 in 2000 to 53,883 in 2010. This represented a decrease of 22.2 percent from the 2000 Census population," he said.

Camacho said that, according to the 2010 Census and FTA formula grants, the 2010 Census Urbanized Areas descriptions resulted in four areas that were urbanized based on the 2000 Census. Going under the 50,000 threshold qualified an area as urbanized in 2010 and included Saipan and other states.

"However, Virgin Islands, Guam, and the CNMI agreed to have Census measure urbanization within their territories but asked that, regardless of the results, all urban areas be classified as 'urban cluster,' which are considered to be under the FTA," Camacho said.

The results showed no urbanized areas identified in the CNMI and an urban area with a 139,000 population in Guam will be treated as "rural" for purposes of FTA's programs.

Results also included an urban area with an over 50,000 population in Virgin Islands that was "ignored" by FTA as the statute provides for the entire U.S. Virgin Islands to be treated as an urbanized area for purposes of FTA programs.

Rural designation

"As a result, the CNMI is considered 'rural' for purposes of FTA programs, although the CNMI's entire population is over 53,000," Camacho said.

According to him, FTA does not currently have the statutory authority to grant administrative exceptions to allow operating assistance where it is not eligible under the current law.

"Congress took action to grandfather areas that were impacted by Census in 1990 and 2000, to phase in the adverse impacts over several years," Camacho said. "Congress could do that again. The rules regarding operating assistance eligibility could be changed independent of Census considerations by reauthorization which Congress is currently debating."

Camacho noted that Congress should consider and give federal grantor agencies the authority to waive the 20 percent federal matching requirement to consolidate all FTA grants.

"We need the capability and flexibility to manage and operate our public transit system, especially when our Mariana Islands are so isolated from the mainland U.S. and separated by water," Camacho said.

Camacho said he is seeking Sablan's and his office's help in seeking a similar special treatment as the U.S Virgin Islands for the CNMI for purposes of the FTA program.

"While COTA 'understands' treating the CNMI as 'urban cluster' for purposes of federal funding that extended some federal programs beneficial to the CNMI, it is unfortunate that the 'urban cluster' negatively impacted public transportation funding for the CNMI," he said.

As an example, Camacho said that if the CNMI had been designated as an "urban area" instead of an "urban cluster," the CNMI could have availed and qualified under the 2013 and 2014 FTA Ferry Boat million dollar program.

"Unfortunately, only urbanized areas or section 5307 recipients are qualified to apply to fund their existing or new ferry system," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 35 local federal program managers advance to the final capstone course in what was a three-part series in Grants Management Professional training.

Program managers obtain continuing education training

Thanks to the USA Graduate School's Pacific Islands Training Initiative and funding support from the Office of Insular Affairs, several grants program managers were able to advance to the final capstone course in what was a three-part series in Grants Management Professional training. The participants will receive their full Continuing Professional Education credits in Grants Management, Grants Performance, and the Effective Grants Manager.

The "Effective Grants Manager" course was held from May 12 to May 15, 2014, and was led by instructor Mary Beth Saenz. This three-day, 24-hour capstone course is the third and final course in the Certificate of Accomplishment in Grants Management program. The course explores the next steps toward increasing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of grants and grant-funded programs; explores current issues and events in grants management along with how to prepare for a grants audit; and works a comprehensive case study in a simulated team environment to apply all the principles covered in the grants management curriculum.

After the successful completion of this course, participants are now able to identify current issues and trends in grants management; assess and address the 10 most common audit findings in grant programs; and identify new and unique options for dealing with special challenges in grants such as volunteer recruitment/training/retention, advertising of services, communication between the "number-crunchers" and the program/performance managers, and much more.

"Thanks to the support from the Pacific Islands Training Institute and the Office of Insular Affairs, the 35 local federal program managers finally completed all the required training materials and are able to apply the expected outcomes for their particular federal programs. I am confident these graduates will be able to pass on the knowledge learned to their counterparts," said Office of Grants Management administrator Sheryl Sizemore. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Child seat, seatbelt checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety, Rota Traffic Section, will be conducting occupant protection/child restraint checkpoints on Friday, May 23, and Saturday, May 24.

On Friday, the first set up is at 7am to 8:15am, along the San Francisco Highway Igua. The second setup is from 10am to 11:15am, along the San Francisco Highway Tatachog by the Mayor's Office. The third setup is at 4pm to 5:15pm, along the San Francisco Highway Lotgan by Charles Manglona's property.

On Saturday, the first setup is from 8:30am to 9:45am, along Sinapalo 1 by San Isidro Chapel. The second setup is from 12:30pm to 1:45pm, along Route 100 by the Tan Kindu baseball field. The third setup is from 4pm to 5:15pm, along the San Francisco Highway Sinapalo 3 by Star Marianas.

There will be another occupant protection/child restraint checkpoint the following Friday, May 30, 2014. The first setup is from 7am to 8:15am, along the San Francisco Highway Igua. The second setup is from 10:30am to 11:45am, along the San Francisco Highway Lotgan by Charles Manglona's property. The third setup is from 3:30pm to 4:45pm, along the San Francisco Highway Tatachog by the Mayor's Office.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes. This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect seatbelt and child restraint violations, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts or car seats.

In addition, traffic and patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

For more information, contact Sgt. Jarrod T. Manglona, Traffic Section, at (670) 532-9530. ***(DPS)***

Energy Office to host energy conservation campaign

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division Office will be hosting the 2014 Saipan Energy Awareness Campaign on June 14, 2014, a Saturday, with two sessions (morning and afternoon) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

This event will provide the residential community tips on how to conserve energy at home, how to save money using efficient products that carry the Energy Star label, and educate the community on the importance of energy conservation in the CNMI.

The Energy Division through its Energy, Education, Efficiency and Conservation Program efforts will be distributing reusable shopping bags with Home Energy Savings Kits and raffle of either a 16" pedestal fan or portable stove for each attendee.

The schedule on June 14, 2014, is as follows:

- First session: 9am to 11am
- Second session: 2pm to 4pm

Due to limited seating, interested individuals must preregister with the CNMI Energy Division office to confirm attendance. Pre-registration will start on Thursday May 22, 2014, and end on Wednesday, June 11, 2014.

For more information and to register, call the Energy Division at 664-4480/4, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. In addition, registered attendees will be required to present a valid photo identification card and a copy of their most recent utility bill in their name to be allowed to participate in the scheduled sessions. Those who fail to provide a photo ID and recent CUC bill at the time of the session will be turned away.

This project is made possible through a grant under the State Energy Program, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Civil Service Commission to lift salary increase suspension

Ryan Ortizo accepted to VCU Medical School

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mount Carmel School 2010 alumnus Ryan Ortizo has been accepted to the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

Mount Carmel School 2010 alumnus Ryan Ortizo was accepted to the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine last month. The Saipan native will also be receiving the prestigious Dean's Scholarship from the university.

Virginia Commonwealth University is a nationally top ranked medical school, and features the only Level 1 Trauma Center in Central Virginia. The university is also home to the only nationally ranked cancer provider in Richmond, VA.

"I am elated to announce this news," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "The medical school's location will give me greater access to patients and ultimately give me greater experience with patient care."

Ortizo is currently a senior at New York University and will be graduating on May 21, 2014, with a major in Biology, a minor in Chemistry, and another minor in Public Health and Policy. He will graduate cum laude and be presented the NYU Founder's Day award for maintaining an excellent GPA. He is also currently president of the NYU Biological Society.

During his undergraduate career Ortizo volunteered at hospitals both on Saipan and in New York City.

"I served as a volunteer at the Commonwealth Health Center and the Pacific Medical Center in Saipan, and Bellevue Hospital and the New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan. In addition to my clinical experience, I have completed scientific research on plant genomics, as well as research on the behavioral risk factors of HIV transmission," he said.

This academic year Ortizo was employed by the New York-Presbyterian Hospital and taught biology and pre-medical sciences to middle school students as a part of an educational and support program.

He said his work at hospitals on Saipan and in New York has shown him the importance of proper medical care and the need for primary care physicians in underserved areas.

"I decided that I would pursue a career in medicine with the honest and genuine intention of serving my hometown of Saipan as a physician," he added.

He encouraged aspiring medical students to first explore their options before entering the medical field.

"Take time to gain the experiences needed to truly understand the enormous sacrifice doctors, nurses, and medical personnel make each and every day. Only when you can begin to appreciate the sacrifice these people make can you really begin to see yourself walking in their footsteps. Applying to medical school takes an incredible amount of work and effort," he said.

He added, "My undergraduate education at NYU as well as my admission to medical school would not have been possible without the support I have received from many people."

Ortizo particularly credits his success to his school, family, friends, the CNMI Scholarship Office, and the doctors, nurses, and staff members at the Commonwealth Health Center.

He is the son of Nero and Myrna Ortizo.

The newly established Civil Service Commission in its recent meetings has been reviewing the suspension currently placed on Civil Service salary increase provisions as authorized in the Personnel Service System Rules & Regulations. This suspension has been in effect since then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio's 2001 letter to the commission declaring the need for financial austerity measures. These austerity measures suspended salary increases due to permanent or temporary promotions, acting or detail assignments, reallocation or reclassification of positions, and step increases based on attendance at training programs. These austerity measures have also not been lifted since their 2001 implementation.

This suspension may only be lifted when the commission provides notification of its lifting in the *Commonwealth Register*. Upon the lifting of the suspension, current employees who had qualified for a salary increase during the time of the suspension will receive their pay increases effective the date that the suspension is lifted. The pay increases cannot be applied retroactive to any date that occurred during the suspension.

After close review and consideration, the commission believes that the time has come to lift its suspension of the salary increase provisions. It intends to announce the lifting of its Nov. 8, 2001, suspension on salary increases in the upcoming *Commonwealth Register*.

The commission is confident that doing so will advance the inherent purpose of the Civil Service Act, which is to build a career service that will "attract, select, and retain the best qualified civil servants on merit who shall hold their offices or positions free from coercion, discrimination, reprisal or political influence, with incentives in the form of genuine opportunities for promotions in the public service, to provide competent and loyal personnel to render impartial service to the public at all times, and to render such service according to the dictates of ethics and morality."

Lifting the salary increase suspension will move the Civil Service System in the direction necessary to achieve this purpose.

This action relates only to the regulatory suspension as defined above and does not affect the ongoing suspension of annual within-grade increases, merit increases and Public Law 10-76 bonuses for employees frozen at Step 12 in their grade. Additionally, the step increase based on attendance at workshops and other training programs will remain suspended.

The commission met with Gov. Eloy S. Inos on several occasions regarding this issue and discussed the content and intent of the letter. In these meetings, the governor supported the commission's proposed lifting of the suspension. Both the commission and the governor recognized that any increases effected must still be within the approved budget funding.

Accordingly, the commission will place the required notice in the next *Commonwealth Register* to lift the suspension with an effective date of 30 days from the date of publication in the *Register*. ***(CSC)***

Okinawa group eyes interpretation monuments

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa chair Taira Zenichi, center, and MRA Okinawa member Kaminten Kensei are working with local officials to put up interpretation monuments on Saipan.

The Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa, led by its chairman, Taira Zenichi, who was born on Saipan during the Japanese time, is collaborating with the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Marianas Visitors Authority to put up interpretation monuments in different sites in the CNMI that will remind younger Okinawans of the time when many of their elders still lived in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The monuments will be built by the staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office and will be placed in approved designated sites. Mayor Donald G. Flores and the MVA have been working with MRA Okinawa to ensure the sites will portray the history being shared by MRA Okinawa.

The sites where the monuments will be placed are at the Fishing Base, CNMI Museum, Taro Sue Store, and Susupe Beach Park, reflecting to areas where these former CNMI residents grew up. The group completed the construction of monuments on Tinian last year. This year they are on Saipan and next year they will be constructing on Rota.

Zenichi shared how important it is to build these monuments as a lot of their members are passing on and he's always had the feeling that the CNMI is his second home away from Okinawa and will never forget the close ties Okinawans and the CNMI share in both history and culture. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 12th birthday to Ignacio Perez! We love you and wish you the best. Be good and have lots of fun! Love always, Mom and Dad, Jas, CJ, Jun, and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 9th month to our king, Izaiah Blaze! May the Lord bless you son with many more to come! We love you always. Love, Mommy and Daddy.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, May 22, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

GOP Kickoff Rally for Precinct 3 on Friday

On behalf of the Precinct 3 GOP candidates and members of the Precinct 3 Club, Precinct 3 chair Donald Barcinas said that the Kickoff Rally for Precinct 3 is set for May 23, 2014, at 6pm at the Beach Pavilion behind McDonald's in Garapan, Saipan. Waving starts at 4:30pm at the Microl Intersection on Beach Road in San Jose. We are inviting all Republican Party candidates, families, friends, and supporters to come join us at the Waving and the Kick Off Rally. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 19-21, from 5pm to 11:55pm. The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 20-21, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace. ***(PR)***

Eighth Notes Music School holds first recital

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the recently concluded Eighth Notes Music School First Musical Concert gather for a group photo after the successful event.

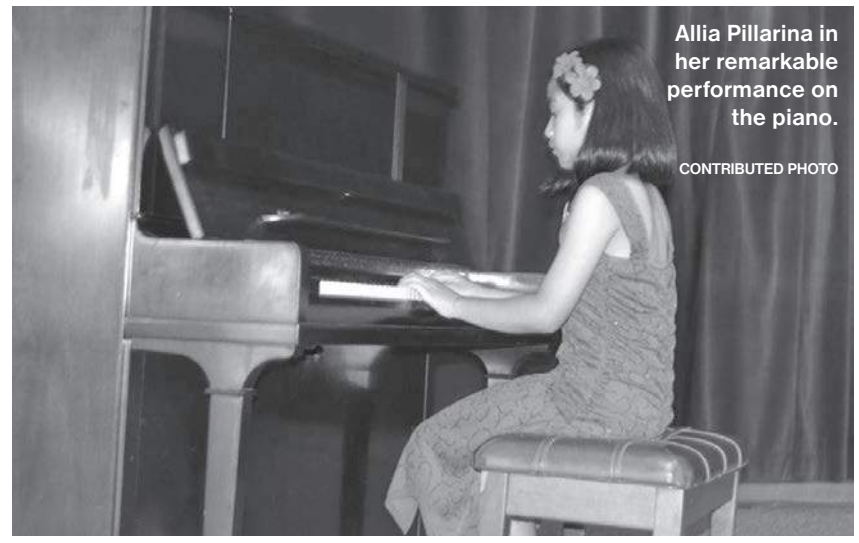
The Eighth Notes Music School marked a big success in its first Music Recital Concert held on April 27 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Led by teacher Ryan Isidro, young music enthusiasts demonstrated their talents in various performances that wowed spectators. Eighth Notes Music School offers various music lessons in piano, guitar, bass, ukulele, drums, among others. ***(PR)***

Matt Moran plays the guitar during the recital concert.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

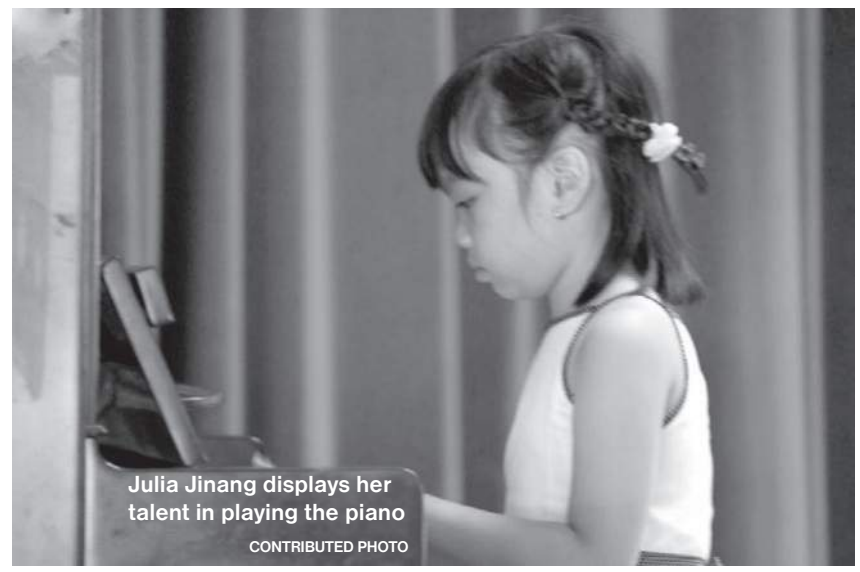
Two students of the Eighth Notes Music School play the ukulele.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Allia Pillarina in her remarkable performance on the piano.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Julia Jinang displays her talent in playing the piano

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 20, 2006

2 schools get funding for more classrooms

Over $250,000 in funds earlier appropriated for a new Northern Islands school has been transferred to the construction of additional classrooms in two Saipan schools. House Bill 15-88, which became Public Law 15-9, re-appropriated $259,712 so additional classrooms could be built in the Garapan and Oleai elementary schools. "[D]ue to volcanic eruptions at the Northern Islands, the building of a school is not recommendable at this time due to safety reasons and that certain classroom buildings at Garapan and Oleai elementary schools need major renovations as soon as possible," states the new law. "The Legislature recognizes the urgency of this measure and considers this a priority due to the unsafe conditions of classroom buildings and the drastic increase in student population that requires for additional classrooms in the near future," it adds.

197 students to graduate from NMC today

At least 197 diplomas, certificates and degrees will be handed over to this year's graduating students of the Northern Marianas College this afternoon when they walk for college's 26th Commencement Exercises. A grand total of 197 students from NMC Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will graduate this year, including Adult Basic Education's diploma students, 18 for General Educational Development, and 20 from Adult School. Thomas Mark Erickson from Tinian and Mei Cheng Reedstrom from Saipan will lead this year's commencement exercises. NMC will award two students with Leadership Award certificates, to be announced during the graduation cer

May 20, 2007

Fitch: Seaport revenue rating outlook negative

Fitch has expanded its negative rating on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's outstanding debt to cover not just the airport division but also the seaport division. From a stable outlook, the seaport revenue bond rating has been revised to negative, based on the latest assessment by Fitch. In a statement released yesterday, Fitch also downgraded the seaport's rating for its $37.1 million outstanding debt to negative 'BBB.' The debt involves the 1998 and 2005 senior series seaport revenue bonds, which were secured by a gross pledge of seaport revenues.

Turning cancer scars into stars

The annual Marianas March Against Cancer once again proved to be another empowering event, gathering all cancer survivors for a night that highlighted the fight against the disease and the pursuit to raise cancer awareness. This year's ceremony mustered the highest attendance of cancer survivors in the CNMI. MMAC overall committee chair Celia Mercado said the event signed up 66 cancer survivors, with 48 of them showing up for the evening ceremony. "This is the highest so far in our MMAC history," she said.

May 20, 2008

3 more bush fires hit Saipan

Three bush fires broke out at separate areas in As Matuis yesterday, sweeping down three to four acres of grassland. No one was reported injured. No house or structure was affected, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro. Police officers also responded to the area and maintained the traffic flow along the highway near the former La Fiesta Mall yesterday afternoon as thick smoke caused zero visibility. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew members were also dispatched to the area as a couple of power poles were damaged.

Candidates for NMI delegate must follow federal campaign regs

Federal regulations will apply to political contributions made to candidates in the upcoming election for the CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. Under U.S. election law, certain people, businesses, and groups are banned from making contributions to federal candidates or political committees. These include foreign nationals (excluding "green card" holders), federal contractors, corporations, and labor unions. Cash, in any amount over $100, is prohibited. Contributions in the name of another person are not permitted. For this election, an individual can only contribute up to $2,300 to a federal candidate such as the CNMI delegate.

Naval Base Guam security participates in Police Week

BARRIGADA, Guam—Sailors from U.S. Naval Base Guam Security showcased their capabilities to the local community during the Guam Police Department's Static Display Law Enforcement Carnival at the Tiyan soccer field in Barrigada on May 13.

The event was held in celebration of Police Week by giving the community an opportunity to learn more about the men and women working in law enforcement around the island.

"It's a good thing to help the kids out and let them see what we do in the Navy," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Isiah Douglas. "In order for the Navy to really complete our mission, we need to work hand and hand with local agencies and law enforcement."

NBG Security displayed their assets by having attendees climb aboard a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle and a 36-foot harbor patrol boat. Sailors also demonstrated their training by showing control tactics with handcuffs, submission tactics with a baton as well as an obedience drill and detection drill by the military working dogs unit.

Representatives from other law enforcement organizations such as the Guam Probation Office, GPD Special Weapons and Tactics, Guam Homeland Security, FBI, and U.S. Marshals Service participated in the event.

"We do a lot of joint efforts in investigations," said Capt. Manuel Babauta, GPD Criminal Investigation division chief. "It's not only with [the Navy Criminal Investigative Service], but also FBI, [Office of Special Investigations] and [Drug Enforcement Agency]."

Babauta estimated more than 2,000 students from Guam's elementary and middle schools attended the event for an up-close look at the static displays and personnel. He added that it was important to have both local and military law enforcement involved because of their close relationship.

"We get to showcase what we have and what we do every day of our lives as law enforcement officers," he said. "Each of our divisions kind of has an attachment to these federal agencies. It is a good working effort." ***(PR)***

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Sailors from U.S. Naval Base Guam Security take a photo opportunity during the Guam Police Department's Static Display Law Enforcement Carnival at the Tiyan soccer field in Barrigada on May 13.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Master-at-Arms Seaman Kristen Goldman, left, and Master-at-Arms Seaman Gabby Barajas, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, show students how to apply handcuffs during an arrest at the Guam Police Department's Static Display Law Enforcement Carnival at the Tiyan soccer field in Barrigada on May 13.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Isiah Douglas, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, explains submission tactics used in training with Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (AW) Gary Clyburn, during the Guam Police Department's Static Display Law Enforcement Carnival at the Tiyan soccer field in Barrigada on May 13.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Matthew Hardin and Military Working Dog Verca, of U.S. Naval Base Guam's Military Working Dog Unit, perform an obedience training drill for students during the Guam Police Department's Static Display Law Enforcement Carnival at the Tiyan soccer field in Barrigada on May 13.

U.S. NAVY/JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Students from various Guam public schools get an up-close look at a U.S. Naval Base Guam Security 36-foot harbor patrol boat during the Guam Police Department's Static Display Law Enforcement Carnival at the Tiyan soccer field in Barrigada on May 13.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Vietnam's turmoil: What caused rioters to level foreign-owned plants?

The following editorial appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette *on Friday, May 16:*

The riots and attacks in Vietnam on foreign-owned plants, ostensibly in response to China's having installed a drilling rig in waters of the South China Sea that both countries claim, is a curious development.

The background is that after some on-the-seas sparring between Chinese and Vietnamese naval forces around the rig, followed by the absence of other Asian nations' support for Vietnam's position, violent crowds damaged or destroyed scores of factories in southern Vietnam, most of which are owned by Taiwanese or South Korean companies, along with some owned by Chinese firms.

China and Vietnam fought a brief but bitter border war in 1979 and much of Vietnam's history, apart from the French colonial period and its war with the United States, has been an effort to keep from being dominated by China, its huge neighbor.

Even so, the factory attacks raise difficult questions. One is whether the destruction, which led to the detention of more than 400 Vietnamese, was inspired by the Hanoi government or else elements seeking to protest the plight of workers (independent unions are banned). Another is whether the damage will discourage future investment in Vietnam, when its economic growth has been partly due to foreign manufacturers—the Chinese and others—locating plants there.

Regardless of the answers, it is worth remembering that Vietnam is still a totalitarian, Communist-run state where nothing much happens without government prompting. Nevertheless, Vietnam's government has an opposition, one that may have taken the occasion of disorder, whatever its source, to run loose and show its strength and discontent.

The United States has called for dialogue between China and Vietnam on the territorial dispute. It has also said the rules of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea should prevail in the quarrel. The irony is that the United States itself has not yet ratified the Law of the Sea treaty, even after 20 years.

The complexity of this Southeast Asian problem, including its internal Vietnamese aspects, should be a caution to the United States to stay out of it.

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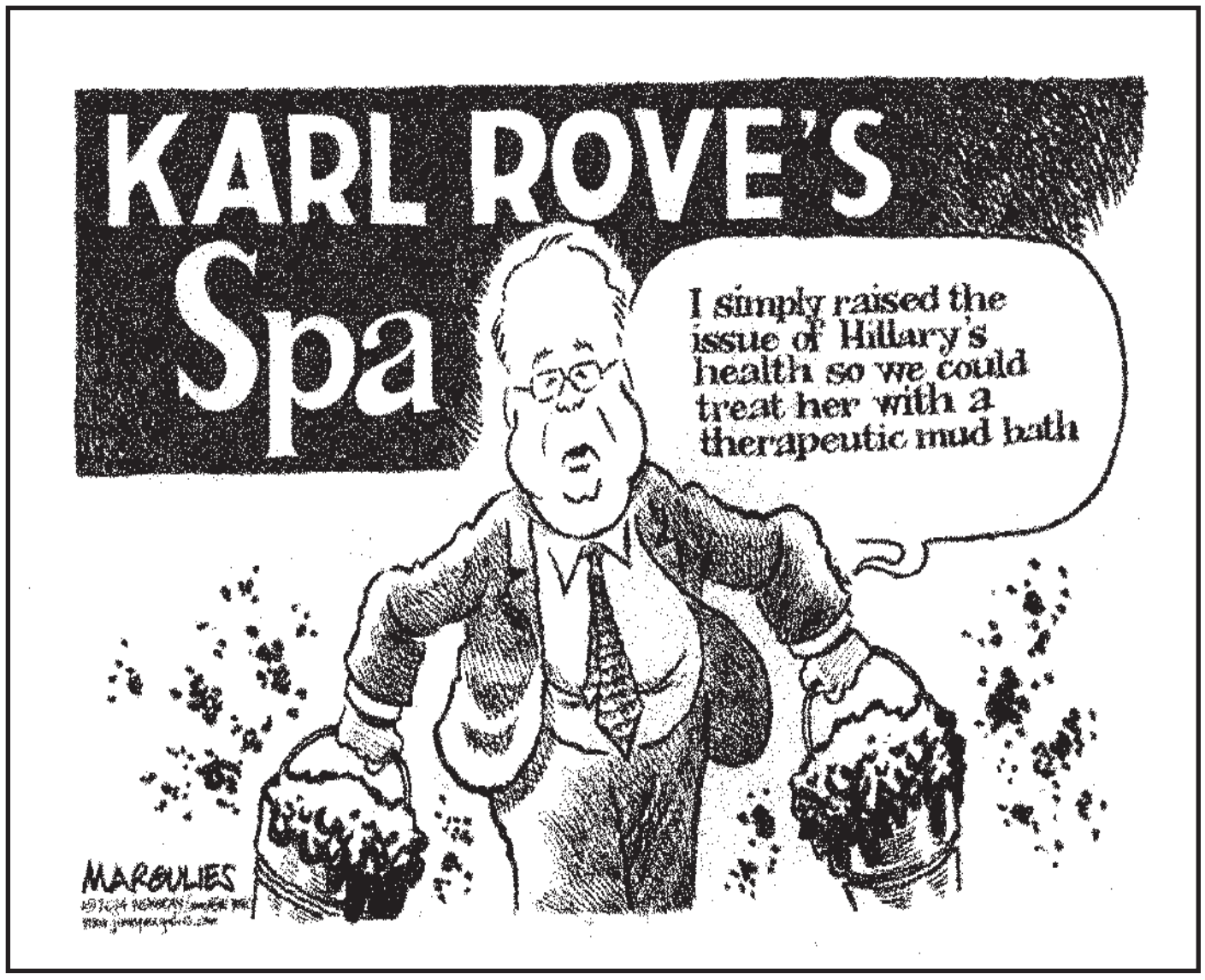


Sterling NH police commish *et al*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Walt, erstwhile of Jamaica and *Americano* from NYC ("Walt F.J. Goodridge" is not exactly a common African name so you might guess our colleague went global long time ago), our *Jamaican in China* had wondered why people kept saying "niggah" in conversations among the *Zhongguoren* he met both in English and Chinese during his last foray to China.

For the non-Chinese speakers, *'nig-eh'* ("eh" barely audible) is an all-purpose gap filler, like the favorite "like" to our teenagers, and "Uh-uh" to old-timers. It also sounds too closely like "niggah," hardly a word of comfort in Jamaica (both Carib or Yankee), but Walt kept his cool and gave everyone the benefit of the doubt. He was greatly relieved when I clarified its use in this column.

For those under-20, "niggah" is either liberally sprinkled in rap lyrics, or avoided by the liberal over-20s in public discourse as the pronunciation for the racist slur "nigger," originally from the Latin word *negro* for "black," before it took to the "shoe shuffling black ignorant slave of African descent" in America and given the sting in reference to slaves from West Africa. Its particular usage as a word, and the reality that it refers to in the U.S., is not pleasant. I went to university in three places in the U.S. South and I can sit all night to relate stories of how the word got a front seat in my meditative council for the frequency of its use and abuse!

Now, we have the NBA Clippers' owner Donald Sterling balking at paying a fine imposed by the basketball association after being videotaped expressing his disdain for "black" athletes and celebrities! His high-priced lawyer does not see any violation of law; he is putting up a fight even of the ownership of the franchise itself. As an obvious tactic, the light has been shifted into the alleged blackmailing propensity of Sterling's rather high-maintenance girlfriend!

Comes New Hampshire, Wolfeboro Police Commissioner Robert Copeland, a Caucasian 82-year-old, acknowledging to his fellow police commissioners in an email that he used the racial "nigger" slur against Obama because he really meant the term to be pejorative of the President and his perceived lackluster (at best) performance, evidently more than a little short of his expectation. Nor will he be "politically correct" and apologize for publicly patronizing its use.

The black-and-white divide does still run up the marquee of high profile people, never mind that it is no longer common and widespread at the ground level. Let me run the reality of the divide in my four levels of perceptions.

The sense level is where it begins. I am pretty well-endowed with the melanin requirement of existence in equatorial real estate, "born beautifully brown" in Pinoy mythology, and coupled with the trust that the WAY LIFE IS (Judeo-Christian-Muslim) precludes any other reality, I am quite at peace with the givenness of the color of my skin. Not so with many, the liberals included, who think that tanning make one "glamorous," and the lily white conservatives who see a shade of tan more appropriate on the hired help.

The social Darwinism of the previous two centuries created the assertion that the light skinned in the temperate zone is an advance in the evolution of the human specie. The emotional gulf provided by the notion that "white is beautiful" and that there are no two shades about it, is pretty much a subjective preference, adhered to from the bias and prejudice of one's upbringing. Given their ages, Sterling and Copeland may belong to this category.

Commercial value designers centered in Paris, New York, Tokyo, and Soho, way up north of the Tropic of Cancer, leave us unsurprised that greed promotes skin whiteners and related cosmetics in the global market with the intensity of selling the opaque white fluid fat-and-protein rich cow juice at considerably higher milking rate. One of my students was surprised to find herself and her mother the only folks in Oahu's Waikiki shading themselves under a parasol from the sun.

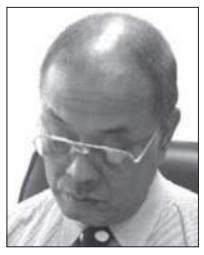
Personal quirks and propensities, individual views and learned perceptions are understandable but when the gravity of vision and mission either through religious cults ("we are all going to be white in heaven") or political cadres (Aryan supremacists, *Sieg Heil!*) take on organized social discipline and organizations, then the rule of law comes to play.

I am a resident of Hawai'i where the planetary color is the rainbow, giving not much weight to the black-and-white divide. Nor was John Harlan in 1896 impressed with the majority opinion of the *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision that justified the "separate but equal" provision's legality. Harlan's minority opinion said: "Our constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among its citizens." The Civil Rights Act of 1964 affirmed that.

Sterling and Copeland are probably hoping to find out whether Harlan's sentiment is still a minority opinion since it is no longer the legal one. They are consigned into ancient history.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Inentregan Achon Tanu`



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Kada familia fumaposgue man-hanau mañaina dispues de man-madispone ginen hilu`. Ni unu sumupone na para umasusede buente pot gaige ayu na respetu yan sentimentu i hita i famaguon.

Mas makat este gi mas amku` na che`lu sa` guiya dispues ma-intrega ni achon familia. Piniloghu na libianu estake ginen katkuet direksion hana` e`ensinahyau-yu` finatton mañeluhu siha pare hu ha` suette, minalañgu `sino dinimalas.

Taya` preparasion `sino krineansa guine na patte. Mampos ha animanasa-yu` na esta hu bisita i dos amku` si seputturan niha mamaisen ayudu. Mabesita-yu` gi hechuran dos gatbon pajaru ni tumohge gi lemlem tautau gi hilu` atuf i gima`. Hu adiñgane na muñga man-chathinassu sa` buente kulan i finatoghu gi seputtura pot mattu mahalañghu nu siha. Man-mamokat gi fihonhu un` ratu dispues man-gupu estake man-maliñgu.

Ti mahñau hu atetuye responsablidathu gi halom pagyu, linau yan dilibiu. Debi bai tachu kumu fitme na pisu yan haligen i mañeluhu maseha malañguyu` lokue`. I pañgpañg kareran linala`ta un` klase ha` `nai popoduñg. Estague` numa`eyu` minetgothu deste ayu na tiempu. I achon gaige gi apaga`hu diariu.

Siempre un` dia i sigiente che`lu yan famaguon mame u kinatga. Este na achon i sumustetene todus gi halom todu klasen mattiru yan mattiempu. I gineflie`hu gi mañeluhu ti umatulaika sa` siha i man-lachog na flores gi hatdin korason mañainan mame.

Kustumbren Tanu`

Ha kone`yu` tatte este na achon gi señgsoñg Lali Fo` `nai dumañku-lu-yu`. Sumen nama`aggem i metgot na sensian komunida guihe na tiempu. Todu familia man-a`apulan, protehe yan kumonduduse kinalamten todu piot i famaguon siha.

Kada familia animu gi rinikohen mantension deste gualu`, tasi yan sabana. Ya maseha makat mattirun cho`chu` siha, ni unu sumeha muna` fañage bisinuña ni suetteña deste kinisechan gualu yan tasi. Mañge` magahet i hihot na kinalamte i tautau siha guihe na tiempu.

`An tiempun lemai, todu man-mañage saibog i familia siha. `An man-sulu` `sino peska, mapatte lokue` i bisinu siha guihan yan pañglau. Motmut gineftau i tautau siha esta kasse uttimon sisienta siha na sakan.

Lastima sa` maliñgu este na patte gi kustumbre-ta. I mueban familia para i nuebu siha na soñgsoñg umatisa este. Lau namagof i metgot na kustumbreta gi inetnon familia deste ha`anen gupot Noche Buena, añu nuebu, pasgua resureksion, kinahulu` Santa Maria yan gupot patron i señgsoñg siha. Estague` i pisun espiri-tuat lamayot patte muna` guaguaha fitme na areglu gi halom yan entalu` natibu.

I sensian ina`ayuda gi numesessita assistimentu un` fitme lokue` na tradision-ta. Este ala kuenta i ti mamagtos yan mas fitme na pogse` ni hagas sumustene hit deste antigu na tiempu. Mauleg ta abiba bes en kuando.

Usun liñguahe

Hu li`e finu na usun liñguahen Chamorro gi man-amko`ta. Pot ihemplo, mattu un` tiahu para u faisen tatte che`luña ni inayauña salape`.

I sasañgaña tiha tasa direktamente. Umesgen pinadesen hagaña pot apas atkilon guma` kumu estudiante gi un` estadu. Dispues, sige umachatge i dos gi hilu` man-grasiosu na konbetsasion.

Dispues, man-gagau dispensu para u hanau. Ilegña i che`luña "Un` ratu sa` guaha guine para bai` na`e hau". Ha lagnos fina` gulusina yan sobre ya man-na`e agradesimentu gi che`luña pot finaborese-gue`. Ayu `nai hu komprende usun to`a yan tomtum na finu` Chamorro.

■■■

Ginen ayu lokue` `nai hu pula` ginen manu mage palabra siha gi megai na kantan natibu piot gi bandan guinaiya. I lahe ni gai interes sige kumanta gi fihon i palao`an ni ha intended fumaisen. I palao`an ume`ekuñgog ya siempre u respuesta finaisen i lahe. Hagas-yu` danderu lau tatnai mattu este gi hinasoghu. Mofona otru buskabida ke ma-ma`ug.

■■■

Sige i prohima kumasau gi plasan batkon aire ya esta chachat hinagoñg mientras ha sasausau lago`ña. Bira birada kumonbet-sasion ham. Era ayu na ha`ane uttimu para li`eña nu i tanu` `nai mafañagu-gue`. Poresu, na sige tumañges piot `nai ha li`e tres mañeluña.

Kontodu guahu ha pachayu` i putin milag lago`ña lau pot neses-sidat famaguoña i uttimu despedia. Ayu na karera siempre u fina-toigue mahalañg. Makat i espiritun natibu pot tano`ña matulaika ni kuantu tiempu u taigue guine. Finu` un` amiguhu Korean pot finatai, "I galagu `an para u matai siempre ha fana` i tanu` `nai mafañagu-gue`". Kuando menos gi tautau.

■■■

Estague` kasse na sessu tautau-ta guihe lagu man-daña. Esta manatañges `an sige mañganta kantan Noche Buena gi tiempun Christmas. Estegue` `nai a`anog espiritun isla gi tautau-ta siha. Gi finu` i kanta, "Ya ti siña hu tulaika sa` tat mas gefsaga, kumu ayu siha na islas i Islas Marianas". Si Iku.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'For You, With You' is just the beginning

Dear supporters, families, and friends: It is with great humility and grief that I am hereby announcing my withdrawal from the 2014 election bid for mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan. As much as I have asked you not to risk your family livelihood for the sake of voting for me but to vote for the right of the people for a better life, I am hereby asking for your understanding and support in my decision to withdraw so I can resolve a difficult issue person-ally that may greatly affect the lives of my wife and children. There comes a time when one must decide, when faced with a difficult choice, to choose who or what is an immediate need or danger and must weigh the effects your decision might bring to those needing your attention and consider the impact to those that will be affected the most. Without inundating this letter with unnecessary details, such is the case in my decision to withdraw.

Politics can be and most often dirty and cruel. It is an unfortunate reality in our little CNMI community and most especially on our tiny island of Tinian. Make no mistake that I take full responsibility for the mistakes that I have made and the misfortune that have now befallen my family. I will, however, take the liberty to hold those who have intentionally included my wife's and children's lives in their attempt and objective to politically destroy me to be morally accountable. In disparity, albeit a hard impact on my family, I have accepted the fact that the motivation to remove me from my present job is obviously politically motivated and would move on without any vindictive aspiration, because we would survive. So, I beg your understanding in giving me and my family time to settle our person-al matter so that we can, again, comfortably vigorously move along and with you working to improve our quality of lives as a commu-nity. As my father once said *"Esti i taotao debi di hu na'gasgas i apusentoña yan nilala'ña antes di hu intenddet mumaneha yan du-mirihi officinan publiku."* I am heeding these wise words, because it makes complete sense and it is the right path. I believe it is only fair to our followers and most importantly our community.

One of the most touching and direct question of all the inqui-ries I received, in addition to all the other educational, excellent and healthy inquiries, is: "I have seen in the past some people who have lost elections and left the island until the next election. If you lose the election, would you still be around to be a part of and help our community"? Even though I have not lost this election yet, I have an answer to this question that I must respond to but never got to earlier. Here is my answer: *I will always be a part of this community and do whatever I can to help as much as I can no matter what decision my wife and I make in regards to the needs of our family. I have two daughters who are ready to graduate from college and are anticipating employment with the Public School System as teach-ers here on Tinian, and I have two minor sons who are attending school on Tinian and in need and equally deserving of guidance and support in their lives. Losing an election is not going to and will never be a factor in our decision to remain active in building our community. Likewise, I ask each and every one of you, no matter where you are, to please continue contributing in whatever man-ner you can to help our people. It is essential that when we pledge our allegiance to this beautiful island and our community that we vow and say it with conviction and express it with hope and sincere commitment that it belongs to us and our future generation. I am privileged to be a descent of Tinian and will consider it a greater privilege to work for and with the people of Tinian for generations to come if time permits.*

I was also asked who I will support since I withdrew from the race. I am hereby announcing that I am supporting the incumbent Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz and his team. I now ask the people who are supporting me and believe in our cause to do the same. My decision to support Mayor Dela Cruz, is not because of a prom-ised job, personal favor, or for financial gain and special interest. It is because I believe, after very thorough discussions with him, he does have the heart and sincerity to help our community. Despite the differences he had with the delegation this past five years and most especially now, I am confident that given the right team with solution-driven leadership instead of problem-driven and political self-interest, we can make Tinian better for generations to come. Therefore, if you had/have faith in me to be your leader as mayor then I am asking you for the same faith in my ability to work with Mayor Dela Cruz for the same reason. I once said that I am willing to and will be your leader in or out of administration. I am now ask-ing you the same support. I am still with you, and I am asking you to be with me and follow through in our pursuit for a better Tinian for ourselves. The advantage that we have is that we already know his weakness as well as his strength and thus will facilitate effective negotiations for the things that we want to see in our community. I vow that I will be an active and loud voice during his remaining term so that the most critical things and priorities that we hold to our standard and have discussed will be made a part of his and our team's agenda. In closing, I am pleading with all of you for your patience as well as your continued support in our cause to accom-plish the things we envisioned since the beginning of our mission to make Tinian better. Our theme remains the same "For You, With You." We are not "Moving Forward" if we forget the most basic and ultimate value that we hold as a society, and most importantly, as our moral, religious, and sanctified lesson from our elders: "Don't move forward if you don't have everyone on board. You need to be complete before you move to the next destination."

Thank you again for your support, your commitment, your shared vision, your encouragement, and most importantly your believe that "For You, With You" is just the beginning for our community to strive for the next political policy on our small island of Tinian. It is all about you and "you" that can make a difference. Special thanks to those who had made all the extra effort in using their personal time, effort, and meager financial resources in promoting our cause. With good blessing I am confident and more committed that we will return with more vigor to continue the people's cause and vision for a better Tinian.

Joseph Masga Mendiola
San Jose, Tinian

Insulted

I'm surprised and insulted that my brother David M. Sablan, (May 14/*Saipan Tribune*), who is part Carolinian, does not understand or has no inkling how deep our culture and traditional beliefs connect us to our ancestral land, or how our ancestral land connect us.

With all due respect to my brother Dave, our families expected him to know far better. His statement shows how deep, and far dis-connected, Dave is from his Carolinian heritage.

As a member of high clan, I'm insulted!

If you wanted to abolish Article 12, conduct public education first, through village meetings in our local language for several years, instead of shoving your idea down our throats without giving us time to digest.

Lino M. Olopai
Saipan, CNMI

Clarification

Contrary to news stories published in both local newspapers, Arc-tic Circle Air's Britten Norman BN-2T is not in the Philippines for repairs.

Our plane is in the Philippines due to our bi-annual inspection and for various upgrades.

Aircraft is expected to return to Saipan by the end of the month and resume passenger and cargo service. Thank you.

Edward Cho
Vice President, Arctic Circle Air Services

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°

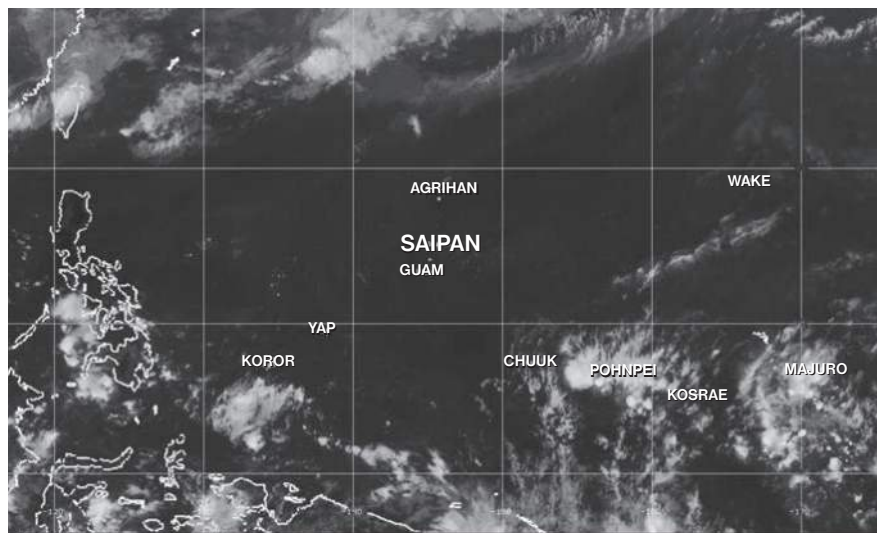
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲93	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼72
London	Rain	▲66	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲94	▼81
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲83	▼73
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼58
Osaka	Showers	▲73	▼61
Paris	Thunderstorms	▲73	▼56
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼60
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼56
Tokyo	Rain	▲69	▼60
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A frontal boundary dips down from 25N155E to 24139E to beyond 25N at 137E. Low clouds and scattered showers are found well north of the Marianas along and up to 180 miles north of this feature. A near-equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from 4N130E to end near EQ144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located south of Koror south of a line 3N131E to 5N131 to 6N136E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from east of Chuuk over Pohnpei and near Kosrae within 200 miles of line from 7N154E to 5N163E. Another trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kwajalein and Majuro between EQ and 8N from 167E to 173E and east of a line from 9N177E to 5N177E to EQ178E. A weak shear line curves eastward from 21N166E to 19N177E to beyond the date line at 19N. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 130 miles north of this boundary.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:18 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:48 PM	10:51 AM
Wednesday		11:50 AM
Thursday	12:36 PM	12:47 PM
Friday	1:22 AM	1:43 PM
Saturday	2:07 AM	2:38 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

AT&T agrees to buy DirecTV in $48.5B deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—AT&T Inc. on Sunday agreed to buy satellite TV provider DirecTV for $48.5 billion, or $95 per share, a deal both companies described as transformational as they seek to take on cable companies and online video providers, delivering content to multiple screens -on living room TVs, PCs, tablets and mobile phones.

With 5.7 million U-verse TV customers and 20.3 million DirecTV customers in the U.S., the combined AT&T-DirecTV would serve 26 million. That would make it the second-largest pay TV operator behind a combined Comcast-Time Warner Cable, which would serve 30 million under a $45 billion merger proposed in February.

"What it does is it gives us the pieces to fulfill a vision we've had for a couple of years—the ability to take premium content and deliver it across multiple points: your smartphone, tablet, television or laptop," AT&T's Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson said on a conference call with journalists Sunday.

The companies are aiming to eke out $1.6 billion in annual cost savings in an increasingly expensive and maturing pay TV business. The extra cash flow gives AT&T more ability to invest in its landline and mobile networks for broader reach and faster speeds in a market where it risks falling behind a bulked up Comcast-Time Warner Cable.

The companies promised consumer benefits like more economical bundles that tie mobile phone, pay TV and Internet service together on a single bill.

But the deal could face unique regulatory scrutiny from the Federal Communications Commission and Department of Justice. Unlike the cable company tie-up, the AT&T-DirecTV merger would effectively cut the number of video providers from four to three for about 25 percent of U.S. households. That's a situation that could result in higher prices for consumers and usually gives regulators cause for concern.

Stephenson said those concerns would be addressed with a number of what he called "unprecedented" commitments. Among them:

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2009 file photo, the AT&T logo is on display at a RadioShack store in Gloucester, Mass.

■ DirecTV would continue to be offered as a standalone service for three years after the deal's closing.

■ AT&T would offer standalone broadband service for at least three years after closing, so consumers could consume video from Netflix and other online services, with download speeds of at least 6 megabits per second where feasible.

■ AT&T would expand high-speed broadband access to 15 million more homes—beyond the 70 million that could now get AT&T service—within four years.

■ AT&T vowed to abide by the open Internet order from 2010 that the Federal Communications Commission is now in the process of revising after a court struck it down.

■ AT&T vowed to sell its roughly 9 percent stake in Latin American wireless carrier América Móvil for about $5 billion.

"This is going to prove to be a pro-competitive and pro-consumer transaction," Stephenson said.

AT&T and DirecTV expect the deal to close within 12 months. Under the terms announced Sunday, DirecTV shareholders will receive $28.50 per share in cash and $66.50 per share in AT&T stock. The total transaction value is $67.1 billion, including DirecTV's net debt.

Stephenson and DirecTV CEO Michael White both said the merger would allow the combined company to offer video over multiple screens, but acknowledged that deals with content providers to expand service on multiple platforms still need to be negotiated.

White said that, for example, DirecTV's exclusive deal for its signature product, NFL Sunday Ticket, expires at the end of the coming season. He said he was "confident" the deal would be extended with the NFL on an exclusive, long-term basis, and noted that in the past, DirecTV has sold the football package directly to online platforms, such as to users of Sony's PlayStation.

"This positions us well to compete in the 21st century," White said. "I think our future is bright together in ways that make both of our companies stronger."

Analysts have questioned the strategic benefits of a deal, particularly because it would give AT&T a larger presence in the mature market for pay TV.

Last year, pay TV subscribers in the U.S. fell for the first time, dipping 0.1 percent to 94.6 million, according to Leichtman Research Group.

While AT&T and DirecTV are doing better than cable companies at attracting TV subscribers, DirecTV's growth in the U.S. has stalled while AT&T is growing the fastest of any TV provider.

DirecTV offers neither fixed-line or mobile Internet service, and its rights to airwave frequencies for satellite TV are not the kind that AT&T can use to improve its mobile phone network.

Still, Stephenson has talked exuberantly about how the growth of online video helps boost demand for its Internet and mobile services. Last month, AT&T entered a joint venture with the Chernin Group to invest in online video services.

DirecTV would continue to be based in El Segundo, California, following the merger, the companies said.

Poor safety record can hurt job search

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.

Question: I was recently fired for a safety violation because I failed to turn off a circuit breaker when making some repairs. I knew better than to make such a stupid mistake, but I just wasn't paying attention. I received a similar warning several years ago, plus a few small talks about safety procedures in between those events. How can I explain these circumstances when I'm interviewing for another job?

Answer: The difficulty of describing your termination depends largely on the type of work you are seeking. If the position has no safety responsibilities or hazardous working conditions, interviewers will be less worried about future problems and may therefore be satisfied with a brief explanation.

For example: "Unfortunately, I neglected to follow a required safety protocol. Although no one was harmed, this was a mistake that I should not have made. I have definitely learned my lesson about the importance of carefully following procedures."

But for jobs that are similar to your previous position, the barriers to employment will be much greater. These employers will be concerned about a repeat performance, so your poor safety record may automatically eliminate you from consideration.

All things considered, this might actually be a good time to reassess your chosen career path. For a variety of reasons, people often wander into positions that are a poor match for their temperament or work style. If you are simply not a detail person, jobs requiring meticulous attention to procedure will never be very satisfying.

On the positive side, folks who are less detail-oriented often have strengths in creative problem-solving, big-picture thinking, or interpersonal skills. So as you search for your next opportunity, try to find work which better fits your natural abilities.

■■■

Q: I sell women's clothing in a large, upscale department store. One of my associates is an older woman who has been here for 25 years and is consistently the top sales performer. "Joan" bullies her co-workers, behaves badly toward customers, and seems to be subject to a different set of rules than everyone else.

Although management has been told about Joan's abhorrent behavior, nothing is ever done about it. We believe they tolerate her horrible conduct because of her age and longevity. What can we do to rein in this out-of-control employee?

A: Your depiction of this situation has more holes than a piece of Swiss cheese. You mention Joan's "abhorrent behavior" and "horrible conduct," but provide no specific examples. You also fail to explain how someone who "behaves badly toward customers" can be the department's best salesperson. And you completely disregard her contribution to the store's financial success.

While Joan may indeed be annoying to co-workers, her support from management is not surprising. In a retail environment, consistently high sales will excuse a multitude of other sins. So instead of focusing on Joan's irritating behavior, try to increase your own leverage by becoming a top producer yourself. If you can develop a more friendly relationship, Joan might even be willing to share some sales tips.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hyundai recalling 137,500 Tucson SUVs

DETROIT (AP)—Hyundai Motor Co. is recalling 137,500 Tucson SUVs because the air bags aren't correctly mounted to the steering wheel. The recall involves 2011-2014 model years. The affected vehicles were built between Jan. 3, 2011, and Dec. 23, 2013. Hyundai says the air bag assembly in the steering wheel may come loose from its mounting. That increases the risk of injury in a crash. The company discovered the issue through warranty claims. It has no reports of injuries or accidents related to the issue.

EU commission candidate defends Portugal austerity

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—European Commission presidency candidate Jean-Claude Juncker has defended Portugal's continuing austerity program as it frees itself from a three-year bailout program that saved the country from collapse. Juncker, who is campaigning in Lisbon on Sunday, said Portugal made a "clean exit" from the worst financial crisis since World War II but needed to avoid future debt to create growth and jobs. He said it was "mountains of debt" that got Europe into trouble, and that debt was deeply anti-democratic because countries lumbered with it quickly become fair game for the markets and "the victim of speculators."

Burning bread crumbs send plane back to Boston

BOSTON (AP)—The smell of burning bread crumbs has forced a Miami-bound American Airlines flight to return to Boston. An airlines spokeswoman says Flight 1532 took off from Boston's Logan International Airport at 6:36 a.m. Sunday, but passengers soon began smelling smoke. The plane returned to Boston at 7:10 a.m., and the smell was found to be from bread crumbs burning in an oven. The oven was cleaned, and the flight took off again at 8:20 a.m. The plane was carrying 150 passengers and five crew members.

Nation

Studies: Wildfires worse due to global warming

WASHINGTON (AP)—The devastating wildfires scorching Southern California offer a glimpse of a warmer and more fiery future, according to scientists and federal and international reports.

In the past three months, at least three different studies and reports have warned that wildfires are getting bigger, that man-made climate change is to blame, and it's only going to get worse with more fires starting earlier in the year. While scientists are reluctant to blame global warming for any specific fire, they have been warning for years about how it will lead to more fires and earlier fire seasons.

"The fires in California and here in Arizona are a clear example of what happens as the Earth warms, particularly as the West warms, and the warming caused by humans is making fire season longer and longer with each decade," said University of Arizona geoscientist Jonathan Overpeck. "It's certainly an example of what we'll see more of in the future."

Since 1984, the area burned by the West's largest wildfires—those of more than 1,000 acres—have increased by about 87,700 acres a year, according to an April study in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. And the areas where fire has been increasing the most are areas where drought has been worsening and "that certainly points to climate being a major contributor," study main author Philip Dennison of the University of Utah said Friday.

The top five years with the most acres burned have all happened in the last decade, according to federal records. From 2010-2013, about 6.4 million acres a year burned on average; in the 1980s it was 2.9 million acres a year.

"We are going to see increased fire activity all across the West as the climate warms," Dennison said.

That was one of a dozen "key messages" in the 841-page National Climate Assessment released by the federal government earlier this month. It mentioned wildfires 200 times.

"Increased warming, drought and insect outbreaks, all caused by or linked to climate change have increased wildfires and impacts to people and ecosystems in the Southwest," the federal report said. "Fire models project more wildfire and increased risks to communities across extensive areas."

Likewise, the Nobel prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted in March that wildfires are on the rise in the western U.S., have killed 103 Americans in 30 years, and will likely get worse.

The immediate cause of the fires can be anything from lightning to arson; the first of the San Diego area fires, which destroyed at least eight houses, an 18-unit condominium complex and two businesses, seemed to start from sparks from faulty construction equipment working on a graded field, said California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman Lynne Tolmachoff.

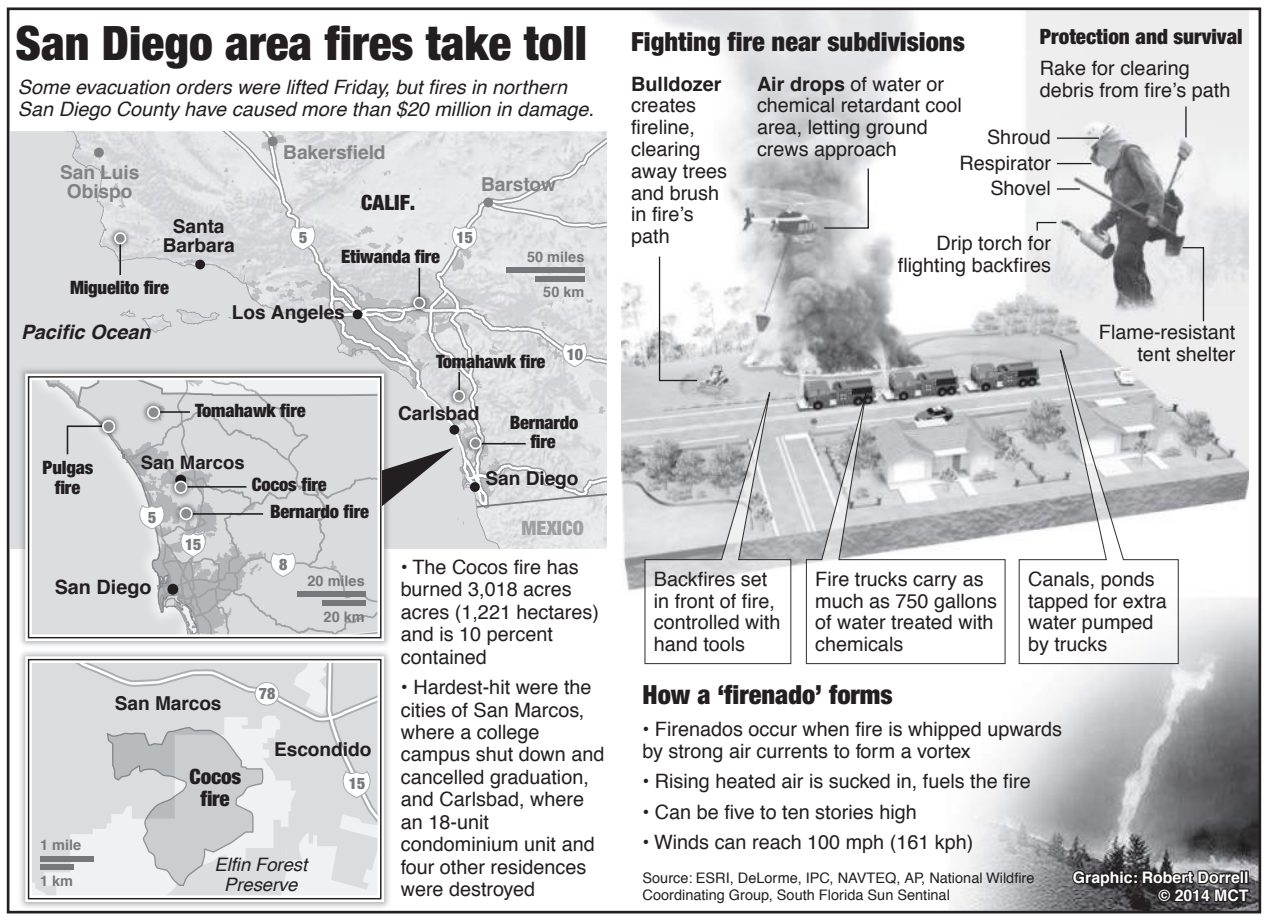
But the California fires are fueled by three major ingredients: drought, heat and winds. California and Arizona have had their hottest first four months of the year on record, according to National Weather Service records. Parts of Southern California broke records Thursday, racing past 100 degrees. For the past two weeks the entire state of California has been in a severe or worse drought, up from 46 percent a year ago, according to the U.S. drought monitor.

"With the drought this year, we're certainly going to see increased frequency of this type of event," Dennison said. "Because of the drought the fuels (dry plants and trees) are very susceptible to burning."

Another study last month in Geophysical Research Letters linked the ongoing drought to man-made climate change. Other scientists say that is not yet proven.

Scientists will have to do a lot of time-consuming computer simulations before they can officially link the drought to climate change. But Overpeck said what is clear is that it's not just a drought, but "a hot drought," which is more connected to man-made warming.

The other factor is the unusual early season Santa Ana winds, whose strength is a key factor in whipping the flames. So far, scientists haven't connected early Santa Ana to climate change, Dennison said.


San Diego area fires take toll
Some evacuation orders were lifted Friday, but fires in northern San Diego County have caused more than $20 million in damage.
San Luis Obispo
Bakersfield
CALIF.
Barstow
Santa Barbara
Miguelito fire
Etiwanda fire
Los Angeles
Pacific Ocean
Tomahawk fire
Carlsbad
Bernardo fire
San Diego
MEXICO
50 miles
50 km
Tomahawk fire
Pulgas fire
San Marcos
Cocos fire
Bernardo fire
San Diego
20 miles
20 km
San Marcos
Escondido
Cocos fire
Elfin Forest Preserve
1 mile
1 km
• The Cocos fire has burned 3,018 acres acres (1,221 hectares) and is 10 percent contained
• Hardest-hit were the cities of San Marcos, where a college campus shut down and cancelled graduation, and Carlsbad, where an 18-unit condominium unit and four other residences were destroyed
Fighting fire near subdivisions
Bulldozer creates fireline, clearing away trees and brush in fire's path
Air drops of water or chemical retardant cool area, letting ground crews approach
Protection and survival
Rake for clearing debris from fire's path
Shroud
Respirator
Shovel
Drip torch for flighting backfires
Flame-resistant tent shelter
Backfires set in front of fire, controlled with hand tools
Fire trucks carry as much as 750 gallons of water treated with chemicals
Canals, ponds tapped for extra water pumped by trucks
How a 'firenado' forms
• Firenados occur when fire is whipped upwards by strong air currents to form a vortex
• Rising heated air is sucked in, fuels the fire
• Can be five to ten stories high
• Winds can reach 100 mph (161 kph)
Source: ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, NAVTEQ, AP, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, South Florida Sun Sentinal
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2014 MCT

California gearing up for bad wildfire season

SAN DIEGO (AP)—All evacuation orders were lifted Sunday as firefighters gained the upper hand on the remaining four of nearly a dozen blazes that tore through Southern California last week—while the governor warned the state was gearing up for what could be one of the drought-stricken region's worst wildfire seasons.

Gov. Jerry Brown told ABC's "This Week" that the state has 5,000 firefighters and has appropriated $600 million to battling blazes, but that may not be enough in the future.

"We're getting ready for the worst," Brown said. "Now, we don't want to anticipate before we know, but we need a full complement of firefighting capacity."

The state firefighting agency went to peak staffing in the first week of April, instead of its usual start in mid-May.

Thousands of additional firefighters may be needed in the future, Brown said, adding that California is on the "front lines" of climate change that is making its weather hotter.

All evacuation orders were lifted Sunday as ocean breezes and lower temperatures over the weekend allowed firefighters to get the upper hand on the remaining fires. They included a 4-square-mile blaze that started in the suburb of San Marcos and three brush fires at Camp Pendleton.

Unusually high temperatures, low humidity and gusty winds set conditions last week for the string of wildfires that broke out in San Diego County, causing more than $20 million in damage.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has responded to more than 1,500 fires this year, compared with about 800 during an average year.

"And in the years to come, we're going to have to make very expensive investments and adjust," Brown said. "And the people are going to have to be careful of how they live, how they build their homes and what kind of vegetation is allowed to grow around them."

Firefighters over the weekend scoured charred hillsides north of San Diego to guard against a resurgence of flames.

The fires spanning 39 square miles chewed a destructive path through San Diego County, destroying at least 47 houses, an 18-unit apartment complex and three businesses. Officials were still assessing the damage.

Frustration grows over $3.4B settlement delay

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Laura Juarez is supposed to receive close to $1,200 as her share of a $3.4 billion settlement among hundreds of thousands of Native Americans whose land-trust royalties were mismanaged by the government for more than a century.

The Bakersfield, California, notary public was going to pool that money with her husband's share, along with a portion of what was coming to her father's estate, to send her 17-year-old daughter to a student-ambassador program in Australia.

But the money, which she expected in December, still hasn't come and her daughter isn't going on next month's trip.

The payments have been held up by more than 2,400 appeals by people who were ruled ineligible to participate in the settlement. As the special master appointed to the case goes through those appeals, Juarez and other American Indians are growing increasingly frustrated over what they see as justice delayed.

"It seems as if the Native Americans are being screwed again," said Juarez, a 39-year-old member of the Comanche nation. "I know several others who have given up on it. It's created a sour taste in their mouths. We get our hopes up just to have it knocked down."

The 493,724 beneficiaries identified as of the beginning of May already know how much they are supposed to receive from the settlement—the individual payments range from $850 to nearly $10 million—and many had earmarked those amounts to splurge on big purchases or simply pay their bills.

The delays have resulted in complaints to the claims administrator, an online petition and even a letter from Montana Sens. Jon Tester and John Walsh about a lack of transparency and misinformation regarding the payments.

"This delay is placing a financial burden on Montana families, and forcing many who are expecting payments to take out loans that they are now unable to repay," the April 3 letter to the settlement's claims administrator, Garden City Group, said.

Jennifer Keough, Garden City Group's executive vice president and chief operating officer, did not return a call for comment.

The attorneys representing the plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit, recognizing the frustration, plan to ask a federal judge this week to allow the distribution to take place before the appeals are finalized.

"The agreement says that no trust administration class payments can be made until all the members are identified," said David Smith, an attorney for Kilpatrick, Townsend and Stockton LLP. "There are a lot of appeals, and many are extremely lengthy. We want to make sure everybody has a chance to participate in the settlement and it's not a rush job."

Train derailment fuels sleep apnea screening talks

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A deadly Metro-North train derailment last year in which the "dazed" engineer was found to have sleep apnea has pushed the commuter railroad to look into establishing screening for the condition, which could include measuring operators' necks and asking them and their spouses about snoring habits.

Metro-North spokesman Aaron Donovan confirmed that the railroad that serves New York City's northern suburbs is working with unions on sleep apnea screening, but he cautioned nothing has been decided. Any program, he said, "would be for all employees in any safety-sensitive positions."

While no cause has been established for the Dec. 1 derailment in the Bronx that left four dead and dozens hurt, apnea has gotten much of the attention. Even before the accident, federal railroad officials had been discussing requirements related to sleep disorders. But there is still no national screening requirement for apnea, and railroads around the country have varying practices.

Any screening program that emerges is likely to start with questioning about the subject's sleep habits and some physical measurements. Overnight sleep-observation studies, which can be time-consuming and expensive, could follow.

Apnea robs its victims of rest because their tongue and throat muscles relax too much during sleep, and they are repeatedly awakened as their airway closes and their breathing stops.

Asia

On high seas, Vietnam and China play tense game

In this Thursday, May 15, 2014 photo, an officer on board Vietnam Coast Guard 4033 vessel films China Coast Guard 3411 vessel sailing in the waters claimed by both countries in the South China Sea.

AP

ABOARD VIETNAMESE COAST GUARD SHIP 4033 (AP)—Each day the Vietnamese ships tried to get close to the rig. And each day they were driven back by the much larger Chinese ships.

But before they sped away, laboring engines spewing black smoke, the Vietnamese delivered a message: "Attention! Attention! We are warning you about your provocative act," blasted out a recording from a loudspeaker in Vietnamese, Chinese and English. "We demand you respect Vietnam's sovereignty. Please immediately halt your activities and leave Vietnamese waters."

Occasionally colliding with or firing water cannons at each other, Vietnamese and Chinese ships have been shadow boxing in a sun-dazzled patch of the South China Sea since May 1, when Beijing parked a hulking, $1 billion deep sea oil rig, drawing a furious response from Vietnam.

Vietnam, ten times smaller than its northern neighbor and dependent on it economically, needs all the help it can get in the dispute. Its leaders believe international opinion is on their side. This week they invited foreign journalists to get a closer look at the standoff, the most serious escalation between the countries in years over their overlapping claims.

Vietnam is determined to defend what it regards as its sovereign territory against China, which insists that most of the South China Sea—including the Paracel Islands it took from U.S.-backed South Vietnam in 1974—belongs to it. But Hanoi lacks options in dealing with Beijing, as China uses it burgeoning economic and military might to press its claims in the seas.

Vietnam has accused Chinese vessels of deliberately and dangerously ramming its ships. TV footage recorded last week from a Vietnamese ship showed a Chinese vessel smashing into the stern of the Vietnamese ship then backing up and ramming it again, damaging its side. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday released three photographs purportedly showing a Vietnamese vessel ramming a Chinese maritime ship. The media onboard this week did not witness any ramming.

"It is not that we want to be in confrontation with the Chinese, but it's our duty to carry out daily patrols in Vietnamese territory," said Col. Le Trung Thanh, the skipper of the Vietnamese coast guard ship 4033. "We want to get close to the rig to persuade them that their actions are illegal and they must leave Vietnam's water unconditionally."

That seems unlikely, however many patrol boats Hanoi sends to the area, or pleads its case to the world. For China, a withdrawal would signal weakness.

Beijing has said it plans to keep the rig until August. While most analysts think neither side has any interest in an armed conflict, the longer the confrontation lasts, the greater the risk of an unplanned incident that could lead to a shooting match.

China has set up a 10-kilometer (6.21-mile) exclusion zone around the rig, which was visible on the horizon. On occasion, Chinese surveillance planes flew over the Vietnamese vessels. Both sides have deployed dozens of vessels, mostly coast guard and fisheries protection fleets. At least one of the Chinese ships had cannons, which were uncovered.

In 1974, China ousted the South Vietnam navy from the Paracel Islands, close to where the rig is currently deployed, killing 75 South Vietnamese sailors. The two countries fought a brief but bloody border war in 1979. In 1988, 64 Vietnamese sailors were killed in another skirmish in the nearby Spratly Islands, where territorial spats between China and the Philippines have recently heated up.

As the latest standoff plays out on high seas, Hanoi's Communist government has been struggling to contain rising popular anger against China, never far from the surface in Vietnam. Protesters this week vandalized foreign-owned factories and killed at least one Chinese national, further inflaming the situation.

Beijing has accused Hanoi of not doing enough to stop the violence. On Friday, it criticized Vietnam for organizing the media trip.

"It is clear that the aim of the Vietnamese side is to escalate the situation and create tension, or in other words, to generate media hype and put up a show in front of the international audience," said Ouyang Yujing, the director general of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of Ocean and Boundary Affairs.

Vietnam's Communist Party has been trying to leverage its links with the party in China to quietly resolve their differences, mindful of the economic importance of good relations. Just last month, one of the coast guard ships stationed close to the rig took part in joint fishery patrols with Chinese vessels in the Gulf of Tonkin, said Vietnam's coast guard Col. Dinh Quoc Ruan.

Unlike in the Paracels, the two countries settled their maritime border in the Gulf of Tonkin in 2000.

Chinese ships arrive in Vietnam to pick up workers

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Two Chinese passenger ships were moored off a central Vietnamese port on Monday preparing to evacuate Chinese workers following deadly rioting last week, officials said.

The nationwide unrest, the worst to hit in Vietnam years, followed Beijing's deployment of a large oil rig in a patch of the South China Sea also claimed by Vietnam. Both nations have sent ships to the waters that are now locked in a tense standoff with each other, raising fears of possible conflict.

The boats with a capacity to carry 1,000 passengers each arrived at Vung Ang early Monday morning, said a port official who wasn't authorized to speak to the media. Thai Tran Linh, a government official in Ha Tinh, said the two boats were moored just off the port and were finalizing paperwork to dock.

Vung Ang port is part of a large Taiwanese steel mill complex 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of Hanoi that was overrun by an anti-China mob last week.

Two Chinese workers were killed and 140 injured in the incident, the most serious in nationwide unrest in which several factories and industrial parks were attacked. Many factories were not Chinese-run but Taiwanese or from elsewhere in Asia, apparently targeted mistakenly or by gangs intent on looting.

The riot Wednesday and Thursday took place at a complex operated by the conglomerate Formosa Plastics Group, Vietnam's largest single foreign invested project. Linh said the complex employed 3,000 Chinese citizens.

Vietnam's government, furious at China's positioning of the rig, initially allowed street protests, a rarity in the authoritarian country. But since the rioting they have cracked down, aware that the violence threatened the country's reputation as a safe and cheap destination for foreign manufacturers to establish.

There has been no violence or protests since last Thursday, and many Chinese have left the country independently.

ASIA BRIEFS

China starts int'l hunt for train station attacker

BEIJING (AP)—China has launched an international manhunt for the alleged mastermind behind an attack at a train station last month blamed on extremists from the Muslim Turkic Uighur ethnic group. C The official China Daily newspaper said Monday that a request had been lodged with Interpol for the arrest of Ismail Yusup and an unspecified number of associates. The report said that Yusup was a member of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement and organized the April 30 attack in the capital of the northwestern Xinjiang region that killed three people and injured 79 others. Beijing says an organized militancy with elements based overseas is behind a rising number of terrorist attacks in the country. Little evidence has been provided to back up the claim and many analysts doubt such an organization exists.

Strong earthquake hits Indonesia; no casualties

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—A strong and shallow undersea earthquake hit parts of Indonesia's Sumatra island on Sunday, causing panic but there were no immediate reports of casualties. The U.S. Geological Survey said the 6.2-magnitude quake hit at a depth of 9 kilometers (5.5 miles) beneath the sea. It was centered 319 kilometers (197 miles) southwest of Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province. Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency put a preliminary magnitude at 6.4 and said it had no potential to trigger a tsunami. The quake was felt across many parts of the province, causing panic among some residents, said Suhardjono, the agency official who like many Indonesians uses only a single name.

Myanmar democracy icon challenges powerful army

MANDALAY, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Sunday challenged the powerful army to help amend the constitution that is barring her from running for president in next year's general elections.

The Nobel laureate said that that the army is duty-bound to safeguard the country and should not be involved in running the administration.

Her comments during a rally in the second largest city of Mandalay drew loud cheers.

Myanmar started moving from a half century of dictatorship to democracy three years ago, but the army still lurks heavily in the shadows. The 2008 constitution drawn by the former military rulers gives the army 25 percent of all parliamentary seats, allows it to appoint three cabinet ministers and have veto power in changing the constitution.

Suu Kyi spent much of the last 20 years under house arrest, but she has been cozying up to the military since she was elected to parliament in 2012, in hopes of winning favors so the constitution could be changed before the 2015 polls.

An article in the constitution says anyone whose spouse or children owes allegiance to a foreign power cannot become president or vice president. Suu Kyi's sons are British nationals.

Several other provisions are also under scrutiny for revision, and some proposed changes would strengthen self-government in regions of the country dominated by ethnic minorities.

World

Bosnia floods trigger landslides, unearth mines

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Floodwaters triggered more than 3,000 landslides across the Balkans on Sunday, laying waste to entire towns and villages and disturbing land mines leftover from the region's 1990s war, along with warning signs that marked the unexploded weapons.

The Balkans' worst flooding since record keeping began forced tens of thousands of people from their homes and threatened to inundate Serbia's main power plant, which supplies electricity to a third of the country and most of the capital, Belgrade.

Authorities organized a frenzied helicopter airlift to get terrified families to safety before the water swallowed up their homes. Many were plucked from rooftops.

Floodwaters receded Sunday in some locations, laying bare the full scale of the damage. Elsewhere, emergency management officials warned that the water would keep rising into Sunday night.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Bosnia's refugee minister, Adil Osmanovic.

AP

People paddle a boat through a flooded street in Obrenovac, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) southwest of Belgrade, Serbia, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Three months' worth of rain fell on the region in three days, producing the worst floods since rainfall measurements began 120 years ago. At least two dozen people have died, with more casualties expected.

The rain caused an estimated 2,100 landslides that covered roads, homes and whole villages throughout hilly Bosnia. Another 1,000 landslides were reported in neighboring Serbia.

The cities of Orasje and Brcko in northeast Bosnia, where the Sava River forms the natural border with Croatia, were in danger of being overwhelmed. Officials in Brcko ordered six villages to be evacuated.

Rescuers urged people to go to the balconies or rooftops of their houses with bright fabric to make themselves visible.

Brcko Mayor Anto Domic said that unless the Bosnian Army is able to reinforce from the air, the city will be flooded completely. He called for the Defense Ministry to use helicopters to lower steel barriers that could be backed by sandbags to contain the water.

"It is a very demanding task," he said, acknowledging that officials would have no other way to protect the port city of more than 70,000.

Civil protection commander Fahrudin Solak said the Sava River was spilling over another portion of the flood barrier in Orasje while emergency workers tried desperately to reinforce it with sandbags.

In Serbia, where floods have inundated towns and villages, authorities braced for high water that could last for several more days.

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said Sunday that 12 bodies have been found so far in Obrenovac, site of the coal-fired Nikola Tesla power plant, Serbia's biggest.

Parts of the plant and a nearby mine that provides its fuel were underwater.

Serbia's state power company, EPS, said crews were doing all they could to prevent any further damage to the plant. Damage to the mine alone is estimated at more than 100 million euros ($137 million).

Serbia's energy minister, Aleksandar Antic, appealed to people to conserve power, calling the threat to the plant "very serious."

3 face charges in Turkey mine disaster amid anger

ISTANBUL (AP)—In the face of widespread anger over Turkey's worst mining disaster, prosecutors arrested three people, including a company manager, on charges of negligence Sunday.

The three were also accused of causing the death of more than one person, a charge that doesn't imply intent, prosecutor Bekir Sahiner said at a news conference in the western town of Soma, where 301 coal miners were killed in Tuesday's tragedy.

The arrests follow allegations by miners that the company failed to heed safety concerns and that government inspections had been superficial. The disaster has provoked anger at a critical time for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as he mulls running in August's presidential election.

Source: AP, NBC News © 2014 MCT

A total of 25 people were initially detained for questioning and six were later released, Sahiner said. Prosecutors will now decide whether to charge or release the remaining 16 people in custody.

Sahiner said one of those arrested was the company's operations manager. The manager is Akin Celik, though Sahiner didn't identify him by name.

The charges can lead to sentences of between three and 15 years in prison, according to the Turkish penal code.

Other company executives were among the detained as Turkish officials investigate the mining disaster. Sahiner said they included the mine's technical supervisor, its head of operations, it safety manager, duty managers and a high ranking company executive. The Dogan news agency reported earlier that Ramazan Dogru, general manager of the mine owned by Soma Holding was detained.

Government and company officials have insisted that the mine was inspected regularly and negligence wasn't a factor in the explosion and fire at the mine. But reacting to anger and sympathy for the miners, government officials promised to investigate and pledged that any mine officials found to be negligent would be punished.

But anger has been mounting in Turkey, leading to protests and clashes in several cities.

About 2,000 people, who were angry at perceived insensitivity on how the disaster and its aftermath were handled by Erdogan and his government, marched in Istanbul chanting "Damn AKP's dictatorship!" referring to the ruling Justice and Development Party, known by its Turkish initials AKP.

Renegade Libyan general says parliament suspended

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Forces apparently loyal to a renegade Libyan general said they suspended parliament Sunday after earlier leading a military assault against lawmakers, directly challenging the legitimacy of the country's weak central government three years after the overthrow of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Libya's leadership condemned the attack and vowed to carry on.

A commander in the military police in Libya read a statement announcing the suspension on behalf of a group led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, a one-time rebel commander who said the U.S. backed his efforts to topple Gadhafi in the 1990s. Hours earlier, militia members backed by truck-mounted anti-aircraft guns, mortars and rocket fire attacked parliament, sending lawmakers fleeing for their lives as gunmen ransacked the legislature.

Gen. Mokhtar Farnana, speaking on a Libyan television channel on behalf of Hifter's group, said it assigned a 60-member constituent's assembly to take over for parliament. Farnana said Libya's current government would act on as an emergency Cabinet, without elaborating.

Farnana, who is in charge of prisons operated by the military police, said forces loyal to Hifter carried out Sunday's attack on parliament. He also said Sunday's attack on Libya's parliament was not a coup, but "fighting by the people's choice."

"We announce to the world that the country can't be a breeding ground or an incubator for terrorism," said Farnana, who wore a military uniform and sat in front of Libya's flag.

Early Monday morning, Libya's interim government condemned the attack on parliament and largely ignored the declaration by the general's group.

"The government condemns the expression of political opinion through the use of armed force," Libyan Justice Minister Salah al-Marghani said in a statement. "It calls for an immediate end of the use the military arsenal ... and calls on all sides to resort to dialogue and reconciliation."

Militias that backed the country's interim government manned checkpoints around the capital late Sunday. Hifter's forces in Tripoli appeared concentrated around the road to the city's airport and its southern outskirts.

Mali: Tuareg rebels take 30 hostages in north

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—Separatist Tuareg rebels launched an assault on the northern Mali city of Kidal over the weekend, killing eight soldiers, storming government buildings and taking 30 hostages in a "declaration of war" on the government, officials said Sunday.

The attack was apparently prompted by a visit to Kidal on Saturday by newly appointed Prime Minister Moussa Mara, highlighting regional hostility toward the central government in Bamako and casting further doubt on the viability of reconciliation efforts.

The country's U.N. mission said in a statement Sunday that six local government officials and two civilians had also been killed, although the circumstances of their deaths were unclear.

"This barbaric crime is totally unacceptable and those responsible must answer for their actions," said mission chief Albert Koenders. "An investigation must be carried out quickly to verify the facts and bring those responsible to justice."

The violence began Saturday morning when the rebels launched a heavy assault on the governor's office, where officials had gathered to meet Mara, according to a government statement. Mara stayed in the army barracks and then left Kidal on Sunday for another northern center, Gao.

Fighting continued throughout the day, killing eight soldiers and injuring 25, according to a separate Defense Ministry statement. The statement said 28 assailants were also killed along with 62 wounded.

The Defense Ministry said Malian soldiers had regained control of all administrative buildings in Kidal except the governor's office. It was unclear where the hostages were being held.

Focus

Ferry disaster makes South Korea question progress

By TODD PITMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this May 3, 2014 photo, Park Jong-dae, father of Danwon High School Junior, Park Su-hyun, who was killed in the sinking of ferry Sewol, looks at the high school in Ansan, South Korea. The tragedy, one of the worst maritime disasters in this country's history, has prompted Koreans to question the very foundations of their society, their strong faith in authority, and the price of the rapid growth South Korea has seen over the last half century.

ANSAN, South Korea (AP)—Park Si-chan had trouble sleeping the night before the biggest trip of his young life, a four-day journey with his entire junior high school class to a lush volcanic island known here as the "Hawaii of Korea."

The trip was the students' last chance for all-out fun before preparing for grueling, all-important university entrance exams, and Si-chan was excited. While packing, he kept saying, "`What am I missing?'" his father, Joseph Park, recalled.

He gave his son some advice: Know where the life jackets are, "just in case." And if anything happens, "just do what those in charge say."

That's exactly what the kids and other passengers did, and many died as a result when the five-story-high Sewol ferry turned upside down and sank in just a few hours on April 16. Most of the 304 people dead or missing were teenagers trapped in cabins where the crew had ordered them to stay.

The tragedy has prompted Koreans to question the very foundations of their society.

"We are realizing the ties that bind our society together—justice, ethics, our moral system of social security—are not as strong as we thought they were," said Changsu Han, a psychiatrist at the Korea University College of Medicine, which treated more than 70 students who survived the ordeal.

The victims "listened to authorities, and did as they were told," he said. "They put on their life vests, and waited to be rescued. ... And many of them are waiting there still—at the bottom of the sea."

Of the 476 people on board the Sewol when it left Incheon port for Jeju island April 15, 325 were students from Danwon High School in Ansan, an hour's drive south of Seoul.

The ferry could transport nearly 1,000 people along with hundreds of cars and dozens of shipping containers. But the company that loaded the vessel has said it was carrying more than 3,600 tons—three times as much as the safety limit in a regulator's report.

The ferry sailed at 9 p.m. An hour later, the kids watched a dazzling fireworks display.

Ko Kyoung-jin, a truck driver who took the Sewol three times a week to deliver packages to a post office, heard the students' loud Korean pop music blaring above his cabin.

Lim Hee-min sent a text message to his son. "When are you going to go to sleep?"

"A little late," Hyun-jin replied.

"OK ... good night," his father wrote. "I miss you, my baby."

The next morning, strong winds were blowing across the water. Hyun-jin took photos of himself wearing a gray hoodie. When he sent the last one to his father, at 8:52 a.m., Jeju was about three hours away.

On the bridge, the third mate ordered the helmsman to make a 5-degree turn. Tracking data show the ship made a 45-degree turn instead. It is unclear why.

Ko, the driver, he heard several shipping containers crash down. Students screamed. In the cafeteria's kitchen, pots and pans, utensils and chairs crashed.

"Don't worry, there's no chance it will sink," said a truck driver on deck with Ko.

The ship was leaning to its left, making it difficult to walk. Student Park Su-hyun began filming with his cell phone from his bunk bed, as other kids cracked jokes.

A boy says, "it's going to be ... hilarious if we upload this on Facebook." Another adds, "It's like we're becoming the Titanic." One by one, though, the students put on life jackets.

At one point, somebody takes Su-hyun's phone and films him. He says, "I love you Mom. I love you Dad. I love you both."

"Please notify the coast guard. Our ship is in danger. It's listing right now," a crew member said in a radio message at 8:55 a.m.

The messages that boomed through the ferry's loudspeakers told people to stay in their cabins, which were becoming increasingly difficult to escape.

Hyun-jin sent his father a blurry image of students in life vests lying on the floor. Jolted, Lim Hee-min called immediately.

"Dad, I think the ferry is sinking."

And then the line went dead.

Three helicopters plucked people off the right-hand side of the ship, which by then was facing the sky. Inflatable Zodiac rescue rafts raced through the waves.

Some crew members tried to save passengers, including a woman who gave away her own life jacket and died. But the captain was among the first to escape. Video footage shows him sliding down a rope to board a coast guard vessel.

Capt. Lee Joon-seok later said he had been reluctant to issue an evacuation because of the freezing water and strong currents. Lee said he issued an evacuation after about half an hour, but surviving passengers have said they never heard one.

In Ansan, the school issued a text message to parents at 11:06 a.m., saying all students had survived. They were being brought to a school gymnasium in Jindo, a town five hours away from Ansan.

But when Joseph Park arrived, people were in tears. A whiteboard listed confirmed survivors. Park Si-chan's name was not there.

There have been no miraculous rescues—just agonizing waits for heartbreaking news.

On April 19, Park Su-hyun's father, Park Jong-dae, posted a letter to his son online: "I sincerely kneel down and beg your forgiveness, as a helpless father who made you be born in this stupid country."

On April 22, a body was brought to port matching Su-hyun's description. His parents pulled back the white sheet. Park's wife, Lee Young-ock, broke down in tears.

"My son, my baby. I love you," she whispered, leaning over to hug her boy one last time.

Searchers have recovered 284 bodies and continue to search for 20 more. The victims include 250 of the 325 students.

Investigators are still struggling to determine what happened but say the crew was negligent. Prosecutors on Thursday indicted 15 surviving crew members and police have detained the head of the ship owner. The government promises new monitoring and regulations.

The disaster is a shock to this country, a former backwater that transformed itself into Asia's fourth-largest economy. Many now question how far South Korea has really come.

"Down deep, most Koreans knew their claims of rapid development were exaggerated," Tom Coyner, a Seoul-based editor of the Korea Economic Reader. "But few expected an incident of the scale of this tragedy to be rubbed in their faces as much as it has."

At Danwon High, black hearse limos drive down the hill out of the school.

Over coffee at a cafe nearby, Park Jong-dae removes his glasses. He rubs his temples, and speaks of those critical last moments in which his 17-year-old son, Park Su-hyun and others might have escaped, but were told to stay put.

"The crew ordered them to stay inside the ferry. They told them they were safer there," Park said. "That's what I cannot understand. Our children didn't die in an accident, OK? They were murdered."

Divers have recovered the bodies of Lim Hyun-jin and Park Si-chan. Si-chan's father said he regrets the advice he gave his son to blindly follow authorities.

"It's important, in Korean culture, to listen to adults. My son listened well. He was obedient. And I praised him for that," Joseph Park said. "But if I could talk to him again, I'd tell him: Listen to adults, but it is equally important to think for yourself, to make your own decisions in life."

S. Korea's president pushes for end of coast guard

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president announced plans Monday to disband the coast guard and root out corruption and collusion between regulators and shipping companies that furious citizens believe led to a ferry disaster last month that left more than 300 people dead or missing.

President Park Geun-hye's first televised address to the nation since the April 16 sinking began with a deep bow and ended with her tearfully reading the names of passengers and crew who died trying to save others. With her approval ratings plummeting ahead of mayoral and governor elections in about two weeks, the speech sought to acknowledge widespread anger over government failures as well as chart a path forward.

Most of the victims were students from a single high school near Seoul who were traveling to the southern tourist island of Jeju.

"We failed to rescue students who we could have saved," Park said. "The ultimate responsibility for not properly dealing with this incident is mine."

Park has apologized before, but critics have called for her to formally address the nation and respond to claims that incompetence, corruption and bad leadership doomed the ferry and those trapped inside it. In Monday's speech, Park decried the accumulation of "widespread abnormal practices" that she said triggered the sinking.

A focus was the coast guard, which has been under growing public criticism over allegations of poor coordination and slow search-and-rescue work during the initial stages of the sinking.

Park called the coast guard's rescue operations a failure and said she would push for legislation that would transfer its responsibilities to the National Police Agency and a new government safety agency she plans to establish.

She said the new agency would also take over maritime traffic controlling responsibilities, currently held by the Ocean Ministry, and safety and security responsibilities, held by the Ministry of Security and Public Administration.

Park Kwang-on, a spokesman for the main opposition party, said the plan to disband the coast guard gives the impression that the government is shifting all the responsibility for the sinking to the coast guard.

"The diagnosis (of the problem) is insufficient and the remedy is inadequate," he said.

The president's plans require parliamentary approval, according to her office.

Park said she would also push for separate legislation aimed at rooting out collusive and corrupt ties between bureaucrats and civilian sectors, something seen by many as a reason for the sinking. Park said retired officials have a tradition of working at the Korea Shipping Association, which oversees safety issues of ships.

The disaster has prompted soul-searching about the nation's neglect of safety as it built Asia's fourth-biggest economy from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The tragedy exposed regulatory failures that appear to have allowed the ferry to set off with far more cargo than it could safely carry.

Park's speech may grate with her major political backers in the business community who may have little interest in a major anti-corruption push, according to Robert Kelly, a political scientist at Pusan National University in South Korea.

He called it "gutsy" that she explicitly targeted collusion and the "bureaucratic mafia."

"Let's see if she has the determination to see it through and push some serious prosecutions," Kelly wrote in an email.

More than one month after the sinking, 286 bodies have been retrieved but 18 others are still missing. Some 172 people, including 22 of the ship's 29 crew members, survived.

Prosecutors last week indicted 15 crew members tasked with navigating the ship, four on homicide charges.

The ship's captain, Capt. Lee Joon-seok, initially told passengers to stay in their cabins and took about half an hour to issue an evacuation order, but it's not known if his message was ever conveyed to passengers.

The head of the company that operates the ferry, Chonghaejin Marine Co. Ltd., and four other company employees have also been arrested. Authorities suspect improper stowage and overloading of cargo may have contributed to the disaster.

Overdrive

Dodge Durango: Same name, nicer ride

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

After spending a week in the latest version of the Dodge Durango, I would urge Dodge to give it a new name. It doesn't have the best history.

Too many buyers considering three-row crossover SUVs look past the Durango—mainly because the initial version was little more than an SUV shell plopped atop a Dodge Dakota pickup frame. As you can imagine, refinement suffered as a result.

And the previous generation saw the Durango grow, but more in terms of attitude than civility.

Finally, in 2011, a Dodge Durango appeared possessing the second generation's attitude, but gaining an impressive amount of sophistication. For 2014, a number of midcycle changes gild the lily.

The Dodge shares its platform with the Jeep Grand Cherokee. What differentiates the two is the Durango's size; its wheelbase is 5 inches longer, overall length is up by 10 inches. The Dodge has three rows of seats, the Jeep offers two.

So if you need more room than the Grand Cherokee offers, but with similar capability, the Durango should be on your list.

As you might expect, engine choices are identical to the Jeep's. The standard engine is Chrysler's excellent 3.6-liter, double-overhead-cam V6 mated to a new eight-speed automatic transmission. It produces 290 horsepower and can tow 6,200 pounds. A 5.7-liter Hemi V8 hitched to a five-speed automatic transmission is optional. It's rated at 360 horsepower and can tow up to 7,400 pounds.

MCT

The 2014 Dodge Durango sports a number of mid-cycle tweaks to the SUV's third-generation design.

Like the Grand Cherokee, the Durango can be had with rear-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, but the Dodge has engineered the Durango for street use more than off-road boulder bashing. So, while both of the Durango's engines can be mated to all-wheel drive, only the V8's all-wheel-drive system features a locking low-range.

As before, the Durango turned in an impressive performance, with a refined ride, smooth manners and reassuring ability. The steering is tuned to be just fast enough to take advantage of the well-tuned suspension. This doesn't feel as big as it is, even though you'll never mistake it for a compact. However, you might be surprised at how quickly you can take corners. Body lean is kept in check, and any softness in the suspension comes out only in the most extreme circumstances. The flip side is a ride that will have you wondering why they need to bother repaving so many highways. The Durango's ambience is enhanced by its quiet nature.

The real change comes when you ask for performance. The eight-speed automatic transmission transforms the V6. No longer merely adequate, this driveline has more than enough power for most situations. Yet its responsive nature doesn't come at the expense of fuel economy. The EPA rated the test vehicle at 17 mpg city, 24 mpg highway. Not bad for a three-row family hauler that tips the scales at more than 2 tons. If you can live without all-wheel drive, mileage goes up 1 mpg. Overall, unless you need the extra 1,200 pounds of towing capacity, you don't need the Hemi V8 and its rating of 14 mpg city, 22 mpg highway—not to mention its 89-octane fuel requirement.

The Durango has five ascending trim levels: SXT, Rallye, Limited, R/T and Citadel. For my weeklong test drive, Dodge provided a Durango Limited with all-wheel drive.

All Durangos get a redecorated cabin for 2014.

Limited models have standard leather seats and seat heaters in the first- and second-row seats. Legroom is impressive until you get to the third row where it's a bit more limited, but still very usable by adults for quick trips. All seats are very comfortable.

A large 8.4-inch touch screen handled the many infotainment options. The software is simple and intuitive to use. Thankfully, some functions can be handled by the knobs below the screen. The touch screen is augmented by a 7-inch screen in the instrument cluster that, Dodge says, can be customized more than 100 ways.

Unless you're a hedonist and need lots of gear, opt for the Limited. It leaves off items many will find unnecessary, while still providing an opulent feel. The test car was stuffed with gear, such as a $1,995 rear DVD entertainment center, which could be easily handled by a couple of iPads. Skipping the power sunroof saves another $1,095, enough to splurge for $1,195 aluminum wheels. Other useful options included second-row fold-and-tumble bucket seats ($895) with second-row console ($300).

As you might expect, the Durango's exterior styling gets a bit of a nip and tuck as well, although the overall appearance looks familiar. There's a new front fascia, projector-beam headlamps, LED running lights and a new choice of wheels. In the rear, the Durango gets an LED tail lamp design similar to that on the Dodge Charger and Dart.

Prices start at $29,795—a slight premium over the base Grand Cherokee, but a bargain considering the extra square footage this ride provides. The prices do rise as you climb through the trim levels, so go easy. The well-equipped test vehicle started at $38,395 and carried an MSRP of $44,870. That's luxury car territory, but this Durango felt appropriately equipped and trimmed for the price.

It's easy to see that the Durango seems as if it has spent time at a health spa. With its revised cabin, refined road manners, peppy but fuel-efficient V6 engine and a long list of available gear, the Durango is the three-row crossover SUV that's much better than you'd ever expect.

As long as you don't mind its name.

NUTS & BOLTS

Dodge Durango

- Engine: 3.6-liter DOHC V6
- Horsepower/torque: 290/260
- Wheelbase: 119.8 inches
- Length: 201.2 inches
- Weight: 4,987 pounds
- Cargo space: 17.2-84.5 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 6,200-7,400 pounds
- EPA rating (city/highway): 17/24 mpg
- Fuel consumption: 20.3 mpg
- Fuel type: Regular
- NHTSA safety rating: Four stars
- Base price, base model: $29,795
- Base price, test model: $38,395
- As tested: $44,870

MOTORING Q&A

Diminutive driver's hubby worries about her safety

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: My wife is 5 feet 2 and has a driving posture that places her about 12 inches from the steering wheel of her 2010 Subaru Forester, even with the pedal extenders I have installed. Years ago I was convinced that this is pretty dangerous given the geometry and violence of airbag deployments. Should I be concerned about the risk of injury from a deploying airbag?

Answer: The basic rule of thumb is a minimum of 12 inches between the driver's chest and the steering wheel/airbag. The crash management system in modern automobiles is engineered to make sure the sea belt/restraint system prevents the driver's upper body from entering the "zone of deployment" prior to the airbag inflating.

So in this case the seatbelt is the critical factor. The good news is that her Subaru, like many modern vehicles and unlike many early-generation airbag-equipped vehicles, is equipped with front seatbelt pretensioners that will rapidly retract and lock the seatbelt in any frontal collision that triggers the airbag. The mechanism for this is an "explosively expanding gas" driving a piston that retracts the belt. This helps preventing "submarining"—sliding downward and forward in the seat—and helps prevent the upper body from reaching the airbag's zone of deployment.

It would appear that you've done everything possible to allow the Subaru's crash management system to work properly for your wife in the event of a serious frontal impact.

Q: Some new cars do not have much space around the tire in the wheelwell, which results in snow collecting and freezing in the small space. Could this affect how the brakes work?

A: Very unlikely. As long as the wheel can roll, the hydraulic pressure applying the brake pads against the rotors will force out moisture and debris as well as generating more than enough heat to melt any ice/snow in proximity. With that said, it's always a good idea to knock off the large "icebergs" that collect at the rear of the wheelwells before driving. These can initially limit steering until worn or knocked clear.

Q: I have a 2002 Buick Century with about 180,000 miles on it. The transmission shifts smoothly when it first starts but after driving for a while it starts to "clunk" when shifting to the next gear. The transmission was rebuilt in 2010. Transmission "conditioner" was added a couple of weeks ago and it's a little better, but not much. Any suggestions for eliminating the clunk except a $2,000 rebuild? Our son will be driving the car over the summer and we'd like it to last a while longer.

A: Does the "Service engine soon" light ever come on when the harsh shifting occurs? Hard upshifts or downshifts can be indicative of "limp" mode operation—a self-protective, high hydraulic pressure mode to prevent slippage/damage to the transmission. If so, a diagnostic scan tool may pinpoint the problem.

If no service light comes on, the problem may be mechanical. Even though the transmission has apparently been rebuilt, sediment or worn/binding valves or accumulator pistons may be causing the symptom. This might explain the temporary improvement from adding the conditioner. If the additive wasn't SeaFoam Trans-Tune, give this a try.

Recognize that harsh shifts aren't necessarily damaging to the transmission or drivetrain. Short of major work, I'd suggest continuing to drive the car until the symptoms worsen significantly. More gentle acceleration and/or manually upshifting/downshifting the transmission may improve shift quality.

Motoring Note: A hearty "thank you" to the armchair quarterbacks who commented on my response to the faulty fuel pump on the 2000 Ford Explorer that wouldn't start in cold weather unless the owner tapped on the bottom of the fuel tank. In describing the additional amperage drawn by a worn/tired fuel pump, I should have said higher mechanical rather than electrical resistance. The additional mechanical resistance in the pump is what causes the increased draw of current I described.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Jackson, Timberlake own Billboard Music Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

The King of Pop and a likely successor, prince of pop Justin Timberlake, ruled the Billboard Music Awards—though Jackson made a splash via hologram and Timberlake accepted his awards via video from overseas.

A hologram of Michael Jackson made its debut Sunday, mirroring the late icon's signature slick dance moves as some members of the audience became emotional, while Timberlake won seven prizes, including top artist and Billboard 200 album, and accepted the honors outside of the country where he was on tour.

"All the other finalists, Miley, Imagine Dragons, Bruno, Katy, I love you guys, it's not a competition, but if it is, I won!" Timberlake exclaimed, dancing with his band. "I want to thank everybody on Earth, everybody on Earth, except, except Donald Sterling."

Timberlake's idol was featured in hologram form, and it performed "Slave to the Rhythm," a song from Jackson's new posthumous album "Xscape," along with a plethora of background dancers, beaming lights and fire blasts. It was easily the biggest moment at the awards show at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

"We tried to do as best we could what we thought Michael would have loved, and those of us who knew Michael really well, we had a good perspective on it," Epic Records CEO L.A. Reid said backstage. Reid worked on the album and released it. "But the truth is, you can't ever really know because he wasn't there."

AP

Jennifer Lopez performs on stage at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Robin Thicke, who won four awards including top Hot 100 song for "Blurred Lines," debuted a new song called "Get Her Back," aiming to win over his actress-wife Paula Patton after they announced in February they were separating. He sang on bended knee and ended with the line: "I gotta get her back tonight."

"And most importantly I'd like to thank my wife for her love and support and for putting up with me all these years," Thicke said onstage when he accepted top R&B song.

The night featured a number of collaborative performances, including an explosive duet from Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert, while double winner Luke Bryan and Florida Georgia Line were crowd favorites when they performed "This Is How We Roll." Even Underwood and her hockey player-husband Mike Fisher sang along.

Miley Cyrus performed The Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" with Wayne Coyne of the Flaming Lips remotely from the United Kingdom, where she was on tour.

"I have to of course thank all of my amazing fans. ... Thank you everybody for making this (expletive) possible—oops. I'm on ABC, sorry," she said when accepting top streaming artist, sticking out her tongue at the end.

Katy Perry, who won top female artist, also performed remotely. Imagine Dragons, however, was present in Las Vegas, where the Billboard Music Awards marked a homecoming for the band. The Las Vegas-based rockers won five honors, including top duo/group and rock artist.

"We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for people that believed in our band, in our small band that started here in Las Vegas from the very beginning," leader Dan Reynolds told the audience. He then thanked radio, family and management for their support, adding with a yell at the end: "And Billboard!"

Lorde was a double winner, taking home trophies for best new artist and rock song for the ubiquitous hit "Royals."

"This whole thing started for me with a song that was written when I was 15, which I know everyone knows, but what I want to say is I am 17 and a half now and I'm so thankful," she said as some of the crowd laughed. "That wasn't a joke. I'm so thankful that I've had the opportunity to learn and grow as a new artist in the spotlight."

Lorde performed her new hit "Tennis Court" in her signature black—and showcased her signature twitchy dance moves. Other performers included John Legend, who sang his current No. 1 hit "All of Me" on piano, a semi-racy Ariana Grande, a sultry Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, who received the icon award and performed at the beginning and end of the three-hour show.

While musicians dominated the awards show, Kendall Jenner turned some heads when she fumbled over her words—almost pulling a John Travolta—when introducing Australian pop group 5 Seconds of Summer.

"And now we welcome ... One ..." the 18-year-old reality star said, seeming to almost say One Direction, as she put her head down.

"Guys, I'm the worst reader."

Florence official: Kardashian,West to wed May 24

ROME (AP)—Kim Kardashian and Kanye West will wed and host a reception at Florence's imposing 16th-century Belvedere Fort on May 24, a spokeswoman at the Florence mayor's office said Friday.

The couple rented the fort, located next to Florence's famed Boboli Gardens, for 300,000 euros ($410,000) and a Protestant minister will preside over the ceremony, spokeswoman Elisa Di Lupo told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Belvedere Fort was built in 1590, believed using plans by Don Giovanni de' Medici. Located near the Arno River, it offers a panoramic view of Florence and the surrounding Tuscan hills.

The 36-year-old rapper proposed to the reality star on her 33rd birthday in October 2013, renting out San Francisco's AT&T Park for the occasion.

This is the first marriage for West, who was previously engaged to designer Alexis Phifer. It's the third trip down the aisle for Kardashian. She was wed to music producer Damon Thomas from 2000 to 2003, and spent 72 days married to professional basketball player Kris Humphries in 2011 after tying the knot in in a lavish ceremony broadcast as a two-part TV special.

The couple was featured on the cover of Vogue magazine's April issue, with Kardashian wearing a wedding-style dress.

There has been no explicit confirmation from either Kardashian or West about the wedding. In an email Thursday to AP, Kardashian representative Ina Treciokas said she wasn't able to comment on reports about the nuptials.

But in an interview with Florence's La Nazione newspaper published Friday, West extolled the beauty of Florence and spoke of the event. Asked if he was excited about May 24, he said, "Very excited. But very happy."

West said he and Kardashian had come to Florence incognito and believed that their daughter, North, born in June 2013, was conceived "among the Renaissance masterpieces."

"It was our first honeymoon," he said of that visit. "It's one of the most beautiful cities of the world, for me the most beautiful in Europe."

He spoke to the newspaper while in Florence to visit friend and designer Ermanno Scervino.

The fort is owned by the Italian government but operated by Florence authorities. It has been closed to the public for the past five years for security upgrades after two young Italians fell to their deaths from its ramparts and was to reopen this summer with an art exhibit.

Di Lupo said she believed the contract to rent the fort had been signed very recently. She said the proceeds from the rental would go to fund restorations for Florence's artistic treasures.

Until the Italian report, the couple had reportedly been planning a wedding ceremony May 24 in France. Kardashian's sister, Kendall Jenner, is currently in Cannes attending the film festival.

AP

Kim Kardashian, left, and Kanye West attend The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating "Charles James: Beyond Fashion" on Monday, May 5, 2014, in New York.

'Godzilla' opens with smashing $93.2 million

By JESSICA HERNDON
AP FILM WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Godzilla" has smashed its way to the top of the box office.

The 3-D monster movie from Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures had the second-largest debut of the year this weekend with $93.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Godzilla" trails Disney-Marvel's "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which opened with $95 million in April, and sits just above "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," which debuted with $91.6 million this month.

Paying homage to the 60-year-old franchise in tone and spectacle, the latest iteration continues the legend of 1954 Japanese original—Ishiro Honda's "Gojira." Reviews of the film were positive—it earned a "fresh" rating from review aggregator RottenTomatoes.com, with 72 percent of film critics responding positively.

Legendary Pictures President Jon Jashni said the film did better than expected partly because it was "starting to get sampled even by those who didn't think it would necessarily be for them. They didn't have nostalgic feelings for it." He said friends or family members likely recommended the movie to those viewers.

Jashni added that the success of "Godzilla" is "validating" after last year's "Pacific Rim" and "Jack the Giant Slayer" performed below expectations for the Warner-Legendary team.

The film, directed by Gareth Edwards, also helped eliminate the bad memory of another of the franchise's remakes, Roland Emmerich's "Godzilla," released in 1998 and starring Matthew Broderick. Backed by Sony, the film opened with $44 million.

Two other reboots—"Godzilla 1985" and "Godzilla 2000"—also flopped.

May is prime real estate for studios looking to launch or advance franchises. The top two opening weekends of all time in North America occurred in May—"The Avengers" opened with $207.4 million in 2012 and "Iron Man 3" debuted with $174.1 million in 2013.

"Godzilla," starring Bryan Cranston, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen, marks the largest May opening ever for Warner.

It's also the year's biggest opening for Imax globally. It generated $103 million and 14.35 million admissions from 16,946 screens in 64 markets outside the U.S. and Canada.

"Godzilla" knocked last weekend's No. 1 hit, Universal Pictures "Neighbors," down to No. 2 in its second weekend.

The raunchy Seth Rogen and Zac Efron-led comedy earned $26 million, bringing its domestic total to $91.5 million.

Rounding out the top three was "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," with $17 million. So far it's earned a total of $172 million domestically.

Also opening this weekend was Disney's feel-good sports drama "Million Dollar Arm," starring Jon Hamm, which landed at No. 4 with $11 million.

"The summer is about having a diverse lineup, and this film will have legs," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "If superheroes and monsters aren't your pleasure, you can go see a more character-driven sports movie."

In its fourth weekend, Fox's femme-fueled comedy "The Other Woman," starring Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann and Kate Upton, gained $6.3 million, bringing its domestic total to $72 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released on Monday.

AP

This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows a scene from "Godzilla."

1. **"Godzilla,"** $93.2 million ($103 million international).
2. **"Neighbors,"** $26 million ($13.5 million international).
3. **"The Amazing Spider-Man 2,"** $17 million ($32 million international).
4. **"Million Dollar Arm,"** $11 million.
5. **"The Other Woman,"** $6.3 million ($8.2 million international).
6. **"Heaven Is for Real,"** $4.4 million.
7. **"Rio 2,"** $4 million ($7.6 million international).
8. **"Captain America: The Winter Soldier,"** $3.8 million ($1.3 million international).
9. **"Legend of Oz,"** $2 million.
10. **"Mom's Night Out,"** $1.9 million.

AP

Visitors view "A Subtlety or the Marvelous Sugar Baby," by artist Kara Walker, on display inside the former Domino Sugar Refinery, located in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY, Saturday, May 17, 2014.

35-foot-tall sugar sculpture honors black workers

NEW YORK (AP)—A 35-foot-tall sphinxlike sculpture made of sugar is on display at an old New York City factory as a tribute to black workers.

Artist Kara Walker's monumental installation occupies much of the cavernous interior of the former Domino Sugar Refinery in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Four tons of sugar was used to create the female figure. There are several smaller sculptures of young boys covered in molasses with fruit baskets holding unrefined sugar.

A sweet aroma still fills the air in the shuttered factory.

The artist is known for exploring issues of race, discrimination, sexual exploitation and power in her work.

The full title of the work is "A Subtlety or the Marvelous Sugar Baby an Homage to the unpaid and overworked Artisans who have refined our Sweet tastes from the cane fields to the Kitchens of the New World on the Occasion of the demolition of the Domino Sugar Refining Plant."

The head of the large sculpture wears a kerchief and has slightly exaggerated African features. Her breasts are exposed and her fists are thrust out.

Walker has described the pose as both submissive and domineering. She said in an interview with Complex Magazine that she thought of the sphinx as "this woman-like creature or guardian of the city, the keeper of the riddle, the devourer of heroes."

Dolly Parton covers a lot of ground

By RANDY LEWIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Dolly Parton was a fireball of energy when she called for a quick chat about her new album, "Blue Smoke," and the companion tour that took her to Australia in February and that will take her across Europe this summer, with some U.S. dates along the way.

"I can talk fast, so we can cover a lot of ground," the 68-year-old Tennessee native said out of the gate. Up first, the album, which was released earlier this year in time for the Australia dates, but is just came out Tuesday in the U.S. and the rest of the world.

The title reflects the character of the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee where she grew up, and the tone to an extent harks to the rootsy, back-to-basics albums she put out at the turn of the 21st century, "The Grass Is Blue," and its successor, "Little Sparrow." Those albums earned her the two most recent of her seven Grammy Awards, "The Grass Is Blue" for country album and the "Little Sparrow" track "Shine" for female country vocal.

"This album tends to have more of the bluegrass-country flavor," she said. "We used all the bluegrass instruments. One of the reasons I called it 'Blue Smoke' is that it has a tinge of the bluegrass of the Smoky Mountains—a mountain music flavor. The 'Blue Smoke' song is about a heartbreak train called Blue Smoke."

It's built on a spirited shuffle rhythm, rootsy instrumentation including guitar, fiddle and dobro and a sing-along chorus with her message of departure to an unfaithful love: "It hurts to know you cheated and it hurts to know you lied / But it hurts me even worse to know you never even tried."

The majority of the songs are her own, but she's also recorded a sweetly reflective duet with old pal Kenny Rogers on "You Can't Make Old Friends," and she's included her versions of Bon Jovi's "Lay Your Hands on Me" and Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right."

Of the Bon Jovi song, she said, "I kinda countrified it, the way I do. I did it with more of a gospel flavor and added some new words. When I first heard that, I thought, 'Man, what a great title.' It has a great feel, gospel sound and that message of 'lay your hands on me' for people who believe in prayer, it's a good uplifting song. It's going to be a nice tune for our concerts. And I did 'Don't Think Twice, It's All Right,' which has always been a favorite of mine. That turned out very nice in a country-bluegrassy way."

The album ends on almost a valedictory note with "Try," a quintessential piece of Parton's homespun philosophizing and empowerment that would become a key part of her music: "Secure yourself for climbing / Make ready for the flight / Don't let your chance go by / You'll make it if you try."

She made a quick jaunt out west in January for dates in Arizona, Nevada and a Southern California casino show in Rancho Mirage. The first leg of her U.S. tour starts May 22 in Tulsa, Okla., and includes only a handful of shows in the Midwest and South before she's off to Europe for much of the summer. More U.S. dates are still to be announced.

Besides giving concerts in Australia, she continued rolling out her Dolly Parton Imagination Library program there, funded by her Dollywood Foundation, that puts free books into the hands of preschool children.

United Way has joined with the program to expand it worldwide, and "they're doing amazing things," she said. "Every day something new happens, and they're getting more books into the hands of more children."

1950s crooner Jerry Vale dies in California at 83

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Vale, the beloved crooner known for his high-tenor voice and romantic songs in the 1950s and early 1960s, has died. He was 83.

Vale, who had been in declining health, died Sunday at his Palm Desert home surrounded by family and friends, family attorney Harold J. Levy said in a statement.

Born Genaro Louis Vitaliano, Vale started performing in New York supper clubs as a teenager and went on to record more than 50 albums. His rendition of "Volare," "Innamorata" and "Al Di La" became classic Italian-American songs. His biggest hit was "You Don't Know Me."

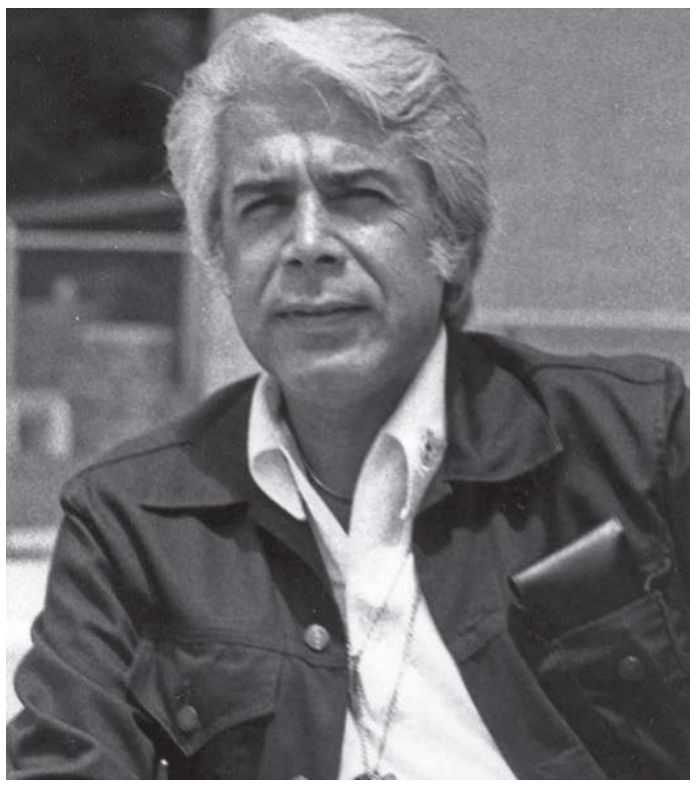
Vale's recording of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the 1960s was played at sporting events for years.

While his albums failed to make the charts in the early 1970s, Vale remained a popular club act.

He also appeared as himself in the movies "Goodfellas," "Casino" and the TV series "The Sopranos."

Vale was a friend of fellow Italian-American crooner Frank Sinatra, and he was an honorary pallbearer at Sinatra's funeral on May 20, 1998.

Vale is survived by Rita, his wife of 55 years; a son, Robert; and a daughter, Pamela.



AP

This 1978 file photo shows singer Jerry Vale.

AP

From left, the cast of The Expendables Wesley Snipes, Sylvester Stallone, and Mel Gibson hold up banners reading, "Bring back our girls", part of a campaign calling for the release of nearly 300 abducted Nigerian schoolgirls being held by Nigerian Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, as they arrive for the screening of The Homesman at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

'Expendables' boost Nigerian girls

CANNES, France (AP)—The "Bring Back Our Girls" message has made its way to the Cannes red carpet for the second night in a row.

This time, it was the cast of "The Expendables 3"—which includes Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson, Harrison Ford, Jason Statham, and Wesley Snipes—who each held up signs bearing the message. The phrase refers to the worldwide effort to bring home more than 250 Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped by the extremist Islamic group Boko Haram a month ago. Despite a multinational effort, they have yet to be recovered.

Salma Hayek brought the message to the red carpet on Saturday night, holding up the sign as she arrived to preview her film "The Prophet."

"The Expendables 3" is not an official selection at Cannes, but its stars have made the most of their Cannes visit—arriving on the Riviera Saturday morning in tanks.

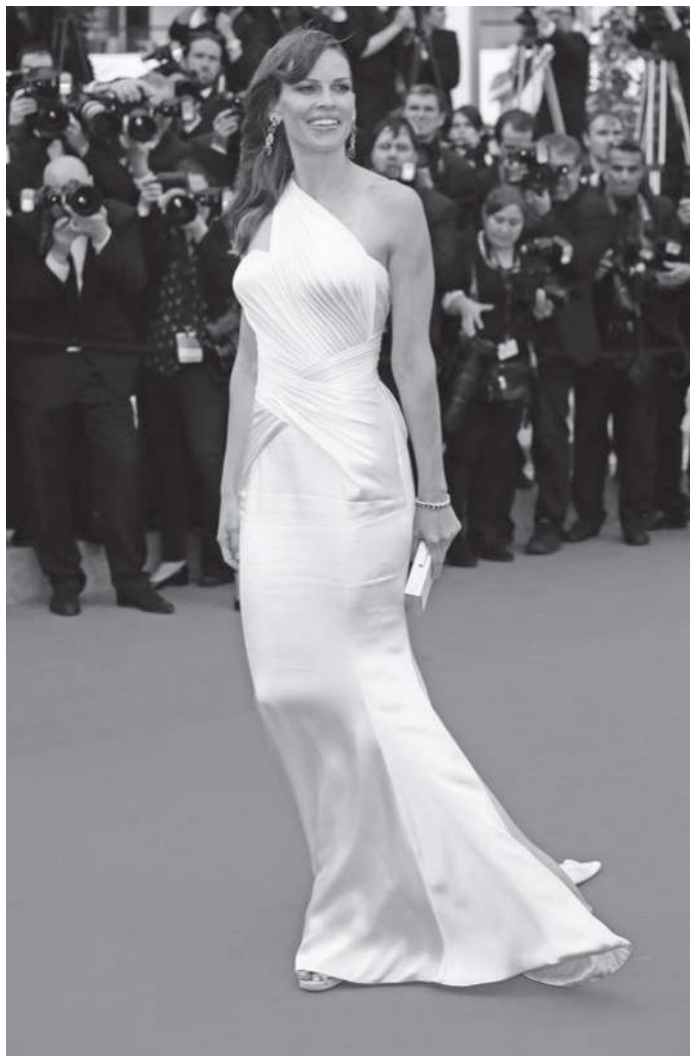
Hilary Swank's Versace stunner

CANNES, France (AP)—It was a coup for Donatella Versace: Hilary Swank shone brightly in white on the Cannes red carpet Sunday for the premiere of "The Homesman" with a silk one-shoulder gown from Atelier Versace, twinned with a 1000-watt smile.

The killer dress came from the Italian house's couture line and was gathered at the waist and draped at the back one.

Setting the look off, she wore Chopard earrings in white gold set with oval-shaped tanzanites, opals and triangle-cut 2-carat diamonds. It was one of the most beautiful styles seen all festival.

Swank wore the look for the premiere of "The Homesman," directed by Tommy Lee Jones, who also stars in it.



Actress Hilary Swank poses as she arrives for the screening of The Homesman at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 18, 2014.

AP

Guest marks his territory, but in the wrong bathroom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a male co-worker, "Bo," who comes to our house occasionally. We have two bathrooms, one of which is in our bedroom. The other is the guest bathroom.

When Bo needs to use the restroom, he goes into our bedroom and uses ours. He never asks; he just goes in, even after I have pointed out the guest bathroom. It creeps me out. I feel like he's invading my personal space, and I think it's rude.

What can I do, since pointing out the guest bathroom hasn't worked? Bo is intimidating. He thinks he can do whatever he wants. Please tell me what I can do.

CREEPED OUT IN GREENVILLE

DEAR CREEPED OUT: I agree your husband's co-worker's behavior is creepy. If you have medications in your bathroom, you should check to be sure he isn't helping himself to some of them when he visits.

Because you can't seem to convey the message to "Bo the Boor," before his next visit, ask your husband to tell him that guests are supposed to use the guest bathroom. And if that doesn't discourage him, install a lock on your bedroom door.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 21-year-old daughter, "Alex," and her 6-year-old moved into an apartment with her 18-year-old boyfriend. We had a tough time accepting this, but I make do because I love Alex and want to be part of her life.

My boyfriend of eight years, "Niles," can't accept my daughter's new boyfriend. We were invited over for dinner and Niles refused to go.

How do I handle this? I feel all future events will be strained and I'll be forced to choose between my daughter and Niles. Please advise.

SAD MOTHER IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SAD MOTHER: Tell Niles that if you must choose between him and your daughter, you will choose your daughter. Her romance may—or may not—last forever, but your relationship with her will. There is nothing to be gained by punishing her and alienating her young man. If Niles has a problem with that, do not let him make it your problem, too. Continue your relationship with your daughter and see Niles separately.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Today is my 50th birthday. I'm a person with a few close friends, but I'm not widely social.

The members of my book club knew it was my birthday when we met a few days ago. I had mentioned it before our meeting. Nothing was said when we met.

My best friend is going on vacation and hasn't remembered. My husband asked me what plans I had made for us to do today. My sister, bless her, has been wonderful and feels responsible to try to make this day special for me.

Is it really my job to plan a celebration and remind everyone I'm close to? I have talked enough about how important this particular birthday is to me. I'm hurt that no one feels I'm worth the effort. Am I making too big a deal out of this?

VEXED IN VERMONT

DEAR VEXED: I think so. My dear mother used to say, "If you want something done right, do it yourself!" That's good advice when those around you are too preoccupied to be as nurturing as you would like them to be.

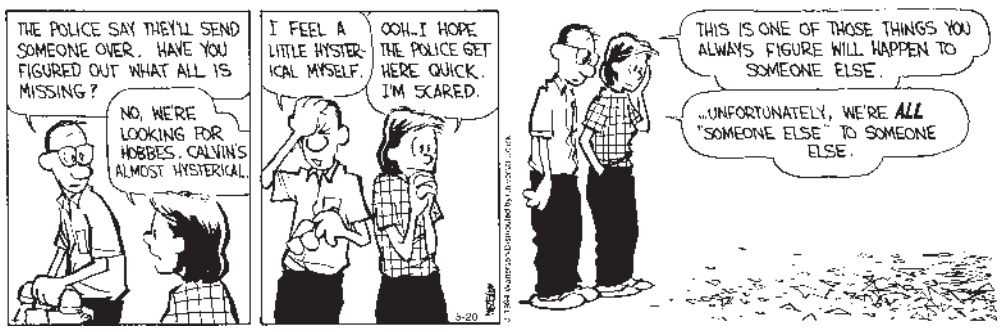
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

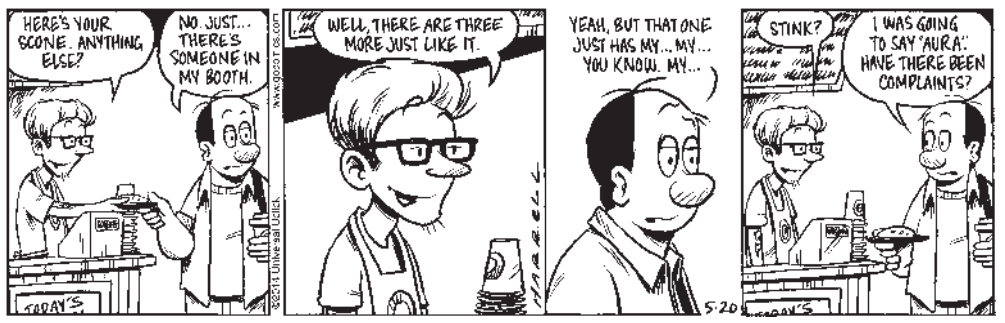

THE POLICE SAY THEY'LL SEND SOMEONE OVER. HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT ALL IS MISSING?
NO, WE'RE LOOKING FOR HOBBES. CALVIN'S ALMOST HYSTERICAL.
I FEEL A LITTLE HYSTERICAL MYSELF.
OOH..I HOPE THE POLICE GET HERE QUICK. I'M SCARED.
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS YOU ALWAYS FIGURE WILL HAPPEN TO SOMEONE ELSE.
...UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE ALL "SOMEONE ELSE" TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE'S YOUR SCONE. ANYTHING ELSE?
NO. JUST... THERE'S SOMEONE IN MY BOOTH.
WELL, THERE ARE THREE MORE JUST LIKE IT.
YEAH, BUT THAT ONE JUST HAS MY... MY... YOU KNOW. MY...
STINK?
I WAS GOING TO SAY 'AURA'. HAVE THERE BEEN COMPLAINTS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK THE PROBLEM IS WITH PEOPLE? THEY SET THEIR GOALS TOO HIGH.
YOU SHOULD STRIVE TO UNDERACHIEVE. TRY TO BE AT THE BOTTOM, SO THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO BUT UP. THAT'S MY PLAN!
SO WHAT'S YOUR GOAL?
TO BE AN INTERNET TROLL.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

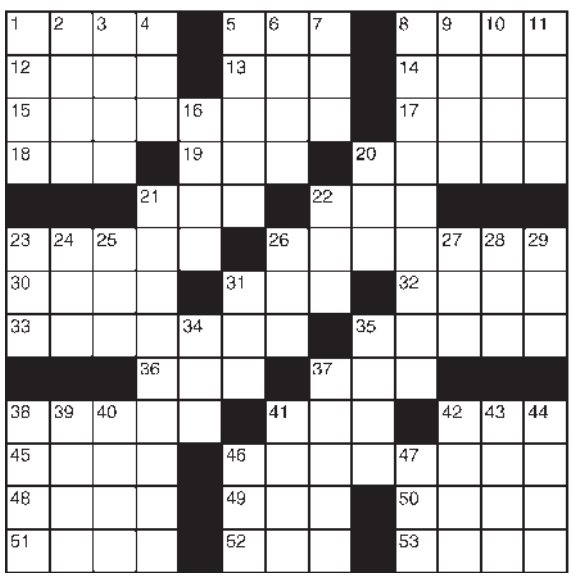
ACROSS
1 Like two peas in —
5 Rail
8 Greet
12 Hint for Sherlock
13 Hockey surface
14 Therefore
15 Airtight
17 Ocho —, Jamaica
18 Football stats
19 Deleted
20 Intelligent
21 Owns
22 Mainlander's memento
23 Oregon city
26 "Sweet" age
30 Actor Sharif
31 Use a taser
32 River through Leeds
33 Ate like a rabbit
35 Nixon's veep
36 Author Fleming
37 Big fib
38 Turkey topping
41 Felonious flight
42 Personal question?
45 Chic beach resort
46 Discoverer of Uranus
48 Culture medium
49 Ovum
50 Wan
51 Knighted lady
52 Court
53 Pumps up the volume

DOWN
1 Sore
2 Begged
3 Mine, in part
4 Rep.'s opponent
5 Vampire attacks
6 Alkali neutralizer
7 Fun and games
8 Secluded residence
9 Met melody
10 "Young Frankenstein" role
11 Missing
16 Physical
20 Gender
21 Plant-eating animal
22 Back talk
23 Junior
24 Parisian pal
25 10-Down's workplace
26 Blue
27 "Ich bin — Berliner"
28 Preceding
29 Just out
31 Buddhist sect
34 Deposit
35 Intends (to)
37 Slow, to Stravinsky
38 Pleased
39 Latvia's capital
40 Leading man?
41 Toy block name
42 "Pow!"
43 "Mayday!"
44 Bullring cheers
46 Chop
47 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	R	E			I	V	S		U	P	T	O
L	U	M	P		V	E	T		G	O	A	D
U	S	E	R		E	R	E		L	E	N	D
S	H	R	C	W		B	A	G	Y			
			T	A	B		M	A	D	A	M	E
D	A	L	T	R	E	Y		H	U	R	O	K
A	W	A	Y		D	U	B		C	A	V	E
M	O	V	I	E		P	I	C	K	L	E	S
P	I	A	N	F	S		G	A	I			
			P	E	A	K		W	I	D	E	R
J	O	N	I		L	O	S		N	O	V	A
O	V	E	N		A	N	T		G	R	I	M
G	A	W	K		D	A	Y		A	L	P	

Yesterday's answer 5-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Stewart, 43; Bronson Pinchot, 55; Cher, 68; Joe Cocker, 70

Happy Birthday: A domineering approach to situations will stand between you and victory this year. Step back and take care of business without butting heads with the people around you. Far more will get done this year if you are a team player or work quietly on your own, avoiding discord and opposition. Keep life simple and display efficiency, dependability and understanding. Your numbers are 1, 7, 19, 21, 28, 36, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do whatever it takes to stay in the lead. Offering assistance to people you have worked with in the past will result in an interesting proposal. Don't feel the urge to make an impulsive or costly decision. Take care of domestic situations. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let secrets cause problems for you. Get your feelings out in the open and deal with any situation quickly instead of letting it fester. You are likely to discover that you or someone close to you has been overreacting. Clear up misconceptions. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Chill out with friends or get involved in an activity that promises mental, physical and emotional stimulation. Embrace change and consider what will make you the happiest. Don't fold under pressure. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick to creative projects or nurturing important relationships. Don't be daunted by what others do or say. Focus on what's important to you and how you can move forward and stick to your budget. Protect your assets, friendships and home. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be running at full speed today. Make changes and initiate what you want to see happen in your community. Get involved, participate and offer assistance. It's all about getting things done and feeling good about what you do. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Question money matters or joint ventures. You have to be smart when it comes to fiscal issues. Overspending to impress someone will result in worry, stress and loss. Concentrate on learning, gaining experience and networking. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do things that make you happy and inspire you. Join a gym, check out self-improvement projects or get together with supportive, positive friends. Short trips that make you ask questions and stretch your imagination will help you make a decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Explore new places or discuss your thoughts or plans with an expert. Interaction with knowledgeable people will convince you to make a personal change that will improve your current lifestyle. Follow your heart, but don't rule out reason. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Consider making a move that will be conducive to improving your income and boosting your standard of living. Use your charm when dealing with partners and you will get your way. Go where the action is. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): One step at a time. Don't feel pressured to make decisions prematurely. Past experience will help you stay centered and keep you moving in a safe direction. Don't worry about what others do. Protect your health, wealth and emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look at your options and start moving in that direction. There is money to be made, contracts and settlements to be considered, and positive personal changes to be made at home and within your personal relationships. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Good fortune comes from well-thought-out actions. Stay on top of financial, medical or legal situations, and refuse to let emotions dictate what you do next. Don't listen to people who clearly have ulterior motives. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, playful and curious. You exude charm and insight.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	7		3		8
	6						4	
		3			9			5
7			8			2		
5								7
		9			6			4
8			6			7		
	3						9	
6		1		8	5			

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	7	9	4	6	3	2	8
4	3	9	1	8	2	5	6	7
6	8	2	3	7	5	1	4	9
8	7	5	6	9	1	4	3	2
3	2	4	7	5	8	6	9	1
9	6	1	2	3	4	8	7	5
2	1	3	8	6	9	7	5	4
5	9	6	4	1	7	2	8	3
7	4	8	5	2	3	9	1	6

Difficulty Level ★ 5/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MICHAEL KORS **Solution: 6 letters**

B	R	S	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	C
E	O	A	W	C	P	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	L
N	S	U	E	E	R	A	E	S	M	P	U	R	U
I	S	U	T	W	A	E	N	H	K	P	N	S	T
L	R	T	N	I	S	T	A	T	C	O	A	R	C
N	E	S	O	G	Q	T	E	T	S	T	O	I	H
O	N	D	S	O	L	U	R	R	I	H	A	L	G
U	G	N	E	W	B	A	E	O	S	O	S	W	L
T	I	E	T	N	E	D	S	A	P	T	N	E	E
L	S	R	O	W	N	T	T	S	R	S	D	S	N
E	E	T	T	A	P	C	E	I	E	O	E	E	I
T	D	O	L	U	H	L	K	L	M	S	L	N	L
S	O	R	M	E	Y	S	T	A	L	F	S	O	E
F	A	P	L	T	B	C	I	R	B	A	F	T	C
K	S	E	S	S	E	R	D	R	U	N	W	A	Y

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Belts, Boots, Boutique, Campaign, Celine, Clothes, Clutch, Collections, Color, Creations, Custom, Designer, Dresses, Fabric, Flats, Footwear, Gown, Karl Anderson, Looks, Models, Online, Outlets, Pants, Pumps, Runway, Sandals, Satchel, Shorts, Skirts, Sportswear, Style, Sunglasses, Sweaters, Tones, Totes, Trends, Wallet, Watches

Yesterday's Answer: Thinking

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel: 233-7777.

Vacancy Announcement

1-Maintenance – At least high school graduate. A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral or written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp. dba
Pena House Boutique & Salon; dba Iridescent Boutique
Tel. # 235-7270

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Sales Associates. Minimum of 2 years experience in selling. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak and read Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours. Rate $5.55/hr.

Applicants should mail their resume to
PMB 1118 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email saipanbest07@gmail.com. American Saipan Best Corporation dba Saipan Best Shopping Market

WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary Rate: $5.55 per hour
QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 2 – 3 years experience in a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry.
- Full-time with flexible working hours

Please mail your resume to PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) GENERAL MANAGER
(1) SUPERVISOR

5 yrs. work related experience in gaming industry required.

If interested, send resume and copy of police clearance to
HANOM INVESTMENT SAIPAN, INC.
PMB 400 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 233-5100

JAGUAR LIMITED
dba: CLUB MERMAID
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(5) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a night bar or an entertainment business.

(3) SINGERS
3-5 years experience in a karaoke bar or in an entertainment business.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $5.55/hr.
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESUME to PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our office at Tel. (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CAD Manager – Required Bachelor's degree plus 5 years experience.

Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.
dba: CLUB MICRONESIA
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) WAITRESS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- 2-3 years experience as a waitress in a night bar or an entertainment business.
- Full time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $5.55/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESUME TO P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our office at Tel. (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Polaris Development Corporation dba
Jojo's Beauty Salon & Spa needs

2 – Beauticians

Qualifying services to perform: Nail art • Manicure • Pedicure • Foot scrub • Facial • Body massage/scrub • Wart removal • Eye lash perming • Hair waxing • Eyebrow and mustache threading

For more information please call 235-5599

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Commercial Cleaning and Maintenance

If interested, bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International School. No telephone calls please.

We are an equal opportunity employer pay no less than the CNMI minimum wage.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2007 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER

For information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 and 234-5750

Bids will be closed on

JUNE 2, 2014 at 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT

Bachelor Degree in Accounting (may be foreign equivalent); 3 years experience; analyze financial information and prepare income statement, cash flow, balance sheet, account receivable and payables, CNMI individual & corporate income tax, federal individual & corporate income tax return preparation, various US States individual & corporate income tax return.

Send resume to Burger & Comer, P.C.,
P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
dba
SAIPAN HEALTH CLINIC

(01) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

- College Graduate
- At least five years or more experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record.
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD coding of medical procedure and diagnosis.
- English Language Skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
- Must be a certified pharmacy technician.

Interested applicant must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 06/20/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security exduded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT for IMMEDIATE HIRING

Zoning Enforcement Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct and supervise field surveys to inspect for, and verify compliance with, the Zoning Law and to collect land use information as instructed by the Zoning Administrator; Supervise and prepare notices of violation and other compliance documents for approval by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate the field enforcement activities of the Zoning Officers, including serving violation notices, setting schedules, designing and implementation of information gathering procedures, and writing follow-up notices; Manage all aspects of issuing, tracking, and processing zoning violation notices, including conducting pre- and post-notice consultations, reviewing for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations and reports; Maintain and publish zoning violation fine guidelines and schedules as approved by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate enforcement notice procedures, fine imposition, and abatement actions and provide weekly written status reports to the Zoning Administrator; Gather, research and coordinate property leasing and ownership information with government agencies; Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: an Associate of Arts degree either in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, or a minimum of 4 years of progressive experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $32,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from our office. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, FAX: 670-234-9666, US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA, or by Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is Tuesday, May 27th, 2014 at 4:30pm.

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports*, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of *TAGA Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!
To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

WHATZIT Solution: The writing is on the wall

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

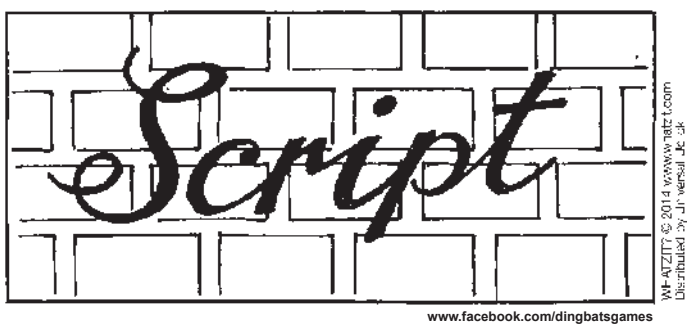
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Pacers pull away from Heat 107-96 to take 1-0 lead

AP

Indiana Pacers' Roy Hibbert (55) and Paul George celebrate during the second half of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana is done talking about home-court advantage.

The top-seeded Pacers are ready to use it against the two-time defending champs.

They took the first step Sunday, when Paul George finished with 24 points and seven assists, David West added 19 points and seven rebounds, and suddenly surging Indiana led wire-to-wire in a 107-96 victory over the Miami Heat in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"This is just a fun matchup," George said. "It's one that we've been waiting for all year."

For the first time in this year's playoffs, the Pacers won a series opener. And for the first time in their last three playoff battles against the Heat, the Pacers won Game 1.

Game 2 is Tuesday night. The home team has won all five games in this season's fiercest and most competitive rivalry, though none was more impressive or important than this one.

All five Indiana starters and backup C.J. Watson scored in double figures, helping Indiana produce its highest point total of the playoffs.

The Pacers limited the Heat to just four offensive rebounds and 6-of-23 shooting from beyond the arc. LeBron James went 1 of 5 on 3s and shot just two free throws, and Miami fell so far behind so fast, it never even had a chance to tie the score.

Sure, opening this best-of-seven series at Bankers Life Fieldhouse helped. The hometown crowd that sometimes serenaded the Pacers with boos during the first two rounds spent most of the first half on its feet, chanted "De-fense" every time it looked as if the Heat might come back and finished the game with its customary chant of "Beat The Heat!"

But the biggest difference was on the court.

Indiana shared the ball, limited its turnovers, maintained its poise and got contributions from everyone in a game it had to win. Roy Hibbert finished with 19 points and nine rebounds, Lance Stephenson had 17 points and eight assists, and George Hill added 15 points as the Pacers looked more like the team that was so dominant over the first half of the season, rather than the one struggled so mightily in the second half.

The challengers in this matchup insist they know it's only a start.

"There's nothing to celebrate. It's not like we won a championship. It's one game," Hill said. "Yes, it was good, but if we come out and lay an egg on Tuesday, this game doesn't mean anything."

The toughest part for the Heat will be figuring out what went wrong.

Coach Erik Spoelstra used Shane Battier in the starting lineup, then replaced him with Udonis Haslem after the Pacers took a 55-45 halftime lead. It made no difference.

James, who had 25 points, 10 rebounds and five assists, and Dwyane Wade, who had 27 points on 12-of-18 shooting, desperately tried to rally the Heat but got little help. Chris Bosh had nine points and two rebounds. Ray Allen finished with 12 points.

While Bosh thought the primary problem was Miami's inability to get stops, James wasn't as sure.

"The game's still so fresh. It's too hard to just say, `Well, we need to do this better in Game 2,'" James said after the Heat lost for just the second time in 10 playoff games. "We need to evaluate our mistakes and things we did in Game 1 first before I can say what we need to bring to Game 2."

Clearly, the Pacers weren't the same team that spent most of the last three months answering questions about their second-half swoon.

Indiana swarmed the glass, exploited its size advantage, knocked down six of its first seven 3-pointers and forced the Heat into playing catch-up.

When the Heat cut a 10-point, first-quarter deficit to 41-37 midway through the second quarter, Stephenson scored four points in a 5-0 run to make it 46-37. When James trimmed it to 50-45 with back-to-back baskets late in the quarter, the Pacers ended the half with five straight points to make it 55-45.

Hibbert and West then combined eight of Indiana's first 14 points to open the second half, pushing the lead to 69-52.

James and Wade rallied the Heat within 83-74 early in the fourth, but the Pacers opened it up again to 102-84 with 4:11 to go.

Now comes the hard part—doing it all over again Tuesday night.

"We've been complacent many times. We just can't get complacent," George said. "We've got to stay humbled off this win and come in with the same mind-set that we have to get another one."

Todd wins Byron Nelson for 1st PGA Tour title

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Brendon Todd was shocked when he saw his ball settled at the base of a tree by the 13th green in the final round of the Byron Nelson Championship.

As good as he is with his short game, it wasn't natural for the slender 6-foot-3 Todd to set up left-handed and hit the ball with the back side of a 4-iron.

"Definitely, without a doubt," Todd said when asked if it was his most unique shot in a competitive round.

And it came in his first PGA Tour victory, a two-stroke win Sunday over Mike Weir.

Todd saved par at the 185-yard 13th hole after knocking the ball to 7 feet, part of a bogey-free 4-under 66. He finished at 14-under 266.

It was the 77th career PGA Tour event for Todd, who twice in the past five years had to go back to back to the Web.com Tour to regain full playing privileges. He earned $1,242,000, a PGA Tour exemption through the 2015-16 season and a spot next year in the Masters.

"I'm excited about the relief like I finally have a chance to play the PGA Tour for multiple years," Todd said. "No. 1, going to Augusta for the Masters is a dream come true."

Todd, who took the lead for good with birdies at Nos. 9 and 10, is the fifth former University of Georgia player to win on the PGA Tour this season. He joined Masters champion Bubba Watson, Harris English, Russell Henley and Chris Kirk. Todd also is the eighth first-time winner this season.

Weir, the 2003 Masters champion who won the last of his eight PGA Tour titles in 2007, finished with a 67. Charles Howell III and Marc Leishman tied for third at 10 under.

After Todd hit his tee shot at the 195-yard second into a greenside bunker, his shot from the sand landed on the green and rolled in for a birdie. When he knocked in a 14-foot birdie putt at the 181-yard fifth, he tied Weir—who made a bogey on No. 6—for the lead at 12 under.

Weir had his best tournament since finishing second behind Dustin Johnson at Pebble Beach in 2009. The 44-year-old Canadian left-hander hadn't had a top-25 finish since 2010, the same year he suffered a partial ligament tear in his right elbow before a stretch when he missed 17 cuts in a row—including all 14 tournaments he started in 2012.

"Best golf I played in a long time. I was happy with the way I played," Weir said. " I was definitely determined to try to win today, but I can feel good about the way I handled things out there."

Howell shot a 67 with a three-putt bogey on the final hole, while Leishman had three bogeys in a five-hole stretch on the back nine for a 68.

Weir had birdies on four of the first five holes. He was 13 under and ahead of Todd by two strokes when his tee shot at No. 5 settled 1 1/2 feet from the cup. That came after Weir blindly hit out of a fairway bunker to 3 feet at No. 4.

But Weir missed the fairway and green for a bogey at the 431-yard sixth hole. At the same time Todd, who played the last 31 holes at TPC Four Seasons without a bogey, was tapping in at the fifth.

Todd rolled in a 17-foot par-saver at No. 17, keeping a two-stroke lead going to the final hole. He needed only 99 putts in the four rounds.

"It was a dream week for me on the golf course," Todd said. "Felt like I absolutely scored my pants off. It was just a short game display. I have a great short game, and even I'll say it was special this week."

Boo Weekley (68) was 9 under to tie for fifth with James Hahn (70). Weekley is the defending champion at Colonial, about 30 miles away and the next tournament.

Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open in the final group with Todd, had already slipped four strokes back at the turn before bogeys at Nos. 10-11. The 2010 British Open champion shot 74, 10 strokes worse than Saturday, to tie for 11th at 6 under.

Martin Kaymer won The Players Championship last weekend and opened at the Nelson with consecutive 67s. But he shot 71 Saturday before a bogey-birdie-bogey start Sunday on way to a 72 and tied for 29th at 3 under.

That was a stroke better than Jimmy Walker, who will remain No. 1 in the FedEx Cup standings.

Jordan Spieth, the 20-year-old Dallas native ranked eighth in the world, had a closing 68 to finish 2-under and tied for 37th at the tournament where he made the cut as an amateur at ages 16 and 17. He finished two strokes behind 17-year-old Scott Scheffler, the top junior golfer from Dallas who played on a sponsor exemption.

Pujols hits 2 homers to help Angels beat Rays, 6-2

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Albert Pujols hit a pair of solo home runs against David Price, and Matt Shoemaker took a shutout into the seventh inning to lead the Los Angeles Angels over the Tampa Bay Rays 6-2 Sunday.

Pujols drove an 0-2 pitch over the center-field fence in the first inning. The three-time NL MVP increased the Angels' advantage to 6-2 in the seventh with his 12th homer this season and the 504th of his career, tying Eddie Murray for 25th place.

Price became the 319th pitcher Pujols has homered off during the regular season.

Shoemaker (2-1) was charged with a run and two hits in six-plus innings. He struck out six, five days after earning his first major league win with a 4-3 victory at Philadelphia.

Price (4-4) gave up six runs—five earned—and 11 hits in 6 2-3 innings with seven strikeouts and no walks. Kevin Kiermaier hit his first big league homer for the Rays.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols, back, celebrates after a one-run home run as Tampa Bay Rays catcher Jose Molina, front, looks on during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, May 18, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif.

Tigers 6, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Victor Martinez hit a two-run homer and Torii Hunter added a solo shot as the Detroit Tigers won their 11th straight road game to complete a three-game sweep of Boston.

It was the sixth consecutive win and 15th in 18 games for the Tigers, who have the majors' best record at 27-12.

Ian Kinsler got four hits, and Miguel Cabrera had three hits and two RBIs as Detroit dominated the first matchup between the teams since losing last season's AL championship series to the eventual World Series champion Red Sox.

It was the first time the Red Sox were swept at home by the Tigers since losing four games in June 1983.

Royals 8, Orioles 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon went 4 for 4 with a pair of three-run homers and a career-high six RBIs as Kansas City beat Baltimore.

Gordon connected off Ubaldo Jimenez (2-5) with two outs in the fifth inning. Gordon, who led the Royals with 20 home runs last year, had gone 134 at-bats without one.

He homered again in his next at-bat, a three-run shot off left-hander Troy Patton in the seventh after Eric Hosmer walked and Billy Butler doubled for his third hit.

Adam Jones hit a three-run homer off Royals reliever Aaron Crow in the ninth. It was the first runs Crow allowed in 20 relief appearances and 17 innings.

Athletics 13, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Yoenis Cespedes drove in a career-high five runs and Brandon Moss had three RBIs as Oakland completed a three-game sweep with a win over slumping Cleveland.

The Athletics, who have won nine of 10, outscored the Indians 30-6 in the series.

Oakland saved its best for the final game, pounding out 12 hits and drawing nine walks. Cespedes' two-run double was the key hit in a four-run fifth. He also drove in two runs with another double in the eighth.

Moss was 3 for 3 with two walks and scored four runs. Josh Donaldson, who drove in seven runs in the series, had an RBI single and scored four times.

Mariners 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Felix Hernandez pitched eight strong innings and Robinson Cano had four hits in Seattle's victory over Minnesota.

Hernandez (5-1) continued his recent domination of the Twins, giving up two runs and seven hits while striking out five and walking one. In his past four starts against Minnesota, Hernandez has pitched 34 innings and allowed three earned runs with 30 strikeouts.

Michael Saunders tripled, doubled and drove in two runs as Seattle snapped a four-game skid.

Ricky Nolasco (2-4) allowed three runs in five innings.

Rangers 6, Blue Jays 2

In Arlington, Texas, Mitch Moreland hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Alex Rios had a two-run triple as Texas avoided a three-game sweep with a victory against Toronto.

Making his second straight start at first base with Prince Fielder sidelined by a neck strain, Moreland hit a line drive just over the wall in right field off R.A. Dickey (4-4) to break a 2-all tie.

The Rangers had gone 23 innings without an extra-base hit when Rios drove one off the right-center wall in the fourth.

Juan Francisco and Edwin Encarnacion homered for the Blue Jays, who had won a franchise-record six straight in Texas, including a four-game sweep in their only visit last year.

Aaron Poreda (2-0) got the win for the Rangers, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Blue Jays made a season-high four errors.

Astros 8, White Sox 2

In Houston, Matt Dominguez homered twice and had four RBIs to lead Houston past Chicago.

Dominguez hit his sixth and seventh homers of the season off lefty John Danks (3-4). Both came with Dexter Fowler on base.

Backed by early run support, Brad Peacock (1-4) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings. The Astros scored two runs or fewer in six of Peacock's previous nine outings.

Chris Carter also homered for the Astros, who have won four of five. The White Sox have lost six of eight.

Chicago played without rookie slugger Jose Abreu, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list with ankle tendinitis.

Yankees 4, Pirates 3, 1st game
Pirates 5, Yankees 3, 2nd game

In New York, Josh Harrison homered in the seventh inning to make up for a baserunning blunder and made a diving catch in left field that helped preserve Pittsburgh's first win in the Bronx since the 1960 World Series.

Mark Teixeira had a two-run single and Brett Gardner added an RBI double as New York won the opener of the first single-admission twinbill at Yankee Stadium since 2004.

Starling Marte hit a two-run homer for the Pirates in the second game after striking out four times in the opener. Marte, though, left with left hamstring tightness in the seventh. Neil Walker and Tony Sanchez homered for Pittsburgh in the opener.

Former Yankees catcher Chris Stewart had two RBIs in the second game. Fill-in closer Mark Melancon, who broke into the big leagues with New York, pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

The Pirates had lost all eight games at Yankee Stadium in interleague play. They last beat New York on the road in Game 5 of the 1960 World Series.

Yangervis Solarte homered and singled for the Yankees, who had won four straight. Alfredo Aceves (0-2) took the loss.

Gerrit Cole (4-3), who turned down the Yankees when they drafted him in 2008 to go to UCLA, struck out eight in six sharp innings to help the Pirates snap a three-game skid.

In the opener, New York scored all its runs in the first two innings off Charlie Morton (0-6).

Hiroki Kuroda (3-3) allowed three runs in six innings for his first win since April 12. David Robertson got four outs for his eighth save.

Braves 6, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, Ryan Doumit scored off a wild pitch as the Atlanta Braves got two runs in the ninth inning to rally past the St. Louis Cardinals.

Freddie Freeman started a ninth-inning rally with a leadoff single off St. Louis closer Trevor Rosenthal (0-2).

With two outs, Freeman went to third on pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit's double to right. Rosenthal intentionally walked pinch hitter Evan Gattis to load the bases and then walked Jordan Schafer to force in the tying run.

Carlos Martinez relieved Rosenthal and had a wild pitch while facing Ramiro Pena that scored Doumit to make it 6-5.

Dan Carpenter (3-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief for the win. Craig Kimbrel pitched a scoreless bottom of the ninth for his 11th save in 13 chances. The save was the 150th of Kimbrel's career.

Giants 4, Marlins 1

In San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval homered for the first time in more than a month and Ryan Vogelsong won for just the second time in nine starts as San Francisco salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Buster Posey returned from a day off to hit a sacrifice fly, while Tyler Colvin and Brandon Hicks each hit RBI singles in a stretch of four straight base hits with two outs in the first against Jacob Turner.

Staked to an early lead, Vogelsong (2-2) struck out six in seven innings as the Giants concluded a season-long stretch with 17 games in as many days. San Francisco avoided its first three-game home losing streak.

Cubs 4, Brewers 2

In Chicago, Travis Wood pitched two-hit ball for seven innings as Chicago got home runs from Welington Castillo and Mike Olt.

Wood (4-4) allowed two runs and struck out seven for the Cubs, who took two of three from the NL Central leaders to win a series for the second time this season. The left-hander walked three, all in the first inning.

Hector Rondon earned his fifth save in five chances after allowing a leadoff double to Ryan Braun in the ninth for Milwaukee's third hit. The Brewers, who began the day with the NL's best record, have scored 11 runs in five games.

Rockies 8, Padres 6, 10 innings

In Denver, Justin Morneau hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning as Colorado turned the third triple play in team history in its win over San Diego.

After Carlos Gonzalez singled earlier in the inning, Morneau lined a 3-2 fastball from Dale Thayer (2-2) to straightaway center. He was mobbed at home by his teammates.

It was the second walkoff homer for Colorado this season.

Nick Masset (1-0) pitched a perfect 10th for his first win with Colorado. LaTroy Hawkins blew his first save of the season in the ninth as he surrendered a tying two-run homer to Everth Cabrera.

Corey Dickerson had a two-run homer and Troy Tulowitzki added a solo shot in the fifth to keep up his hot hitting at Coors Field, where he's batting .571 in 18 games.

Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 3

In Phoenix, Cody Ross hit his first home run of the year and Eric Chavez went deep for the second consecutive day as Arizona won a home series for the first time this season.

After setting a team record for runs Saturday night in an 18-5 rout, the Diamondbacks broke a 3-all tie with Chavez's soaring, two-run shot off Dan Haren (5-2) in the fifth inning.

Ross, batting .163 entering the game after coming back from major hip surgery, also doubled for Arizona, which has won two straight over the Dodgers after losing eight of the first nine meetings this season.

Chris Owings singled three times and stole two bases for the Diamondbacks. The rookie is 9 for 11 against Haren.

Phillies 8, Reds 3

In Philadelphia, Cody Asche, Jimmy Rollins, Wil Nieves and Marlon Byrd all homered to power Philadelphia's victory.

Cliff Lee (4-4) struck out three in 6 2-3 innings for his first home victory of the season.

Cincinnati's Devin Mesoraco had a career-high four hits, including two doubles, and an RBI. The Reds again played without the injured Joey Votto, who remained in Cincinnati during the three-game series with a strained quad.

Philadelphia's offense came to life for a second straight day. Despite playing in hitter-friendly Citizens Bank Park, the Phillies entered Sunday second to last in the NL in home runs with 27.

Nationals 6, Mets 3

In Washington, Wilson Ramos drove in four runs and Ian Desmond homered to help Jordan Zimmermann earn his first win in three starts for Washington.

Desmond's solo shot tied the score in the second inning and Ramos' two-run double in the third put the Nationals ahead for good. The catcher drove in two more with a bases-loaded single in the fifth off starter Zack Wheeler (1-4), staking Washington to a 5-1 lead.

Zimmermann (3-1) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings hours after Washington put left-hander Gio Gonzalez on the 15-day disabled list with inflammation in his pitching shoulder.

6 boats take part in Tinian bottom-fish derby

Tinian hosted the 2014 San Jose Fiesta Bottom-fish Derby last May 2 with a total of six boats and their respective captains and crew taking the plunge.

Through efforts of the Department of Land and Natural Resources-Tinian, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife, a total of 32 fish species with a combined weight of 466.27 lbs were measured and weighed.

One of the most unique fish landed at this year's event was a deepwater goatfish tentatively identified as a Redspot Goatfish (*Parupeneus heptacanthus*). This rarely seen goatfish, caught at depths of 100-350 meters, has never been recorded by DFW since their exhaustive species checklist of fish from the CNMI was started in the early 1990s.

In addition to the various fish caught and gratifying derby experience, the finding of this rare fish species only amplifies the success of the event. Therefore, the organizers have decided to make this an annual event.

Although a variety of fish were caught, only those that weighed 1 lb or more were taken into consideration when placing.

As for the category winners, the *Marlin Chaser* topped the Most Variety with 14, followed by the *KatieAnn* and *Alex* with 10 varieties of fish apiece.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 32 fish species with a combined weight of 466.27 lbs were measured and weighed during the 2014 San Jose Fiesta Bottom-fish Derby last May 2 on Tinian.

In the Biggest Fish category, *Isa* took the plum after catching a 39.05-pounder. *Tako* and *St. Christopher* came in second and third with fish that weighed 23.66 lbs and 14.72 lbs, respectively.

St. Christopher (80.08 lbs), *Marlin Chaser* (65.16 lbs), and *Tako* (47.92 lbs) took first, second, and third in the Total Weight category.

The Tinian's Fishermen's Association and Tinian Mayor's Office organized the 12-hour event that was held at the Tinian Marina from 6am to 6pm.

For more information, contact DFW aquatic education specialist Emma Itibus at 664-6006 or email emma.itibus@gmail.com or resident department head for Tinian DLNR, Richard Farrell, at 433-1400 or email tiniandlnr@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	20	.535	–
Baltimore	22	20	.524	½
Toronto	23	22	.511	1
Boston	20	23	.465	3
Tampa Bay	19	26	.422	5

Central Division

Detroit	27	12	.692	–
Kansas City	22	21	.512	7
Minnesota	21	21	.500	7½
Chicago	21	24	.467	9
Cleveland	19	25	.432	10½

West Division

Oakland	28	16	.636	–
Los Angeles	24	19	.558	3½
Seattle	21	22	.488	6½
Texas	21	23	.477	7
Houston	16	28	.364	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	23	19	.548	–
Washington	23	20	.535	½
Miami	23	22	.511	1½
New York	20	23	.465	3½
Philadelphia	19	22	.463	3½

Central Division

Milwaukee	27	17	.614	–
St. Louis	23	21	.523	4
Cincinnati	19	23	.452	7
Pittsburgh	18	25	.419	8½
Chicago	15	27	.357	11

West Division

San Francisco	28	17	.622	–
Colorado	25	20	.556	3
Los Angeles	23	22	.511	5
San Diego	21	24	.467	7
Arizona	18	28	.391	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 MAKE

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hopes for a main draw slot alive. In the main draw, Sung will duel Hong Kong's Cheuk Yin Yuen.

Watanabe also needed only two sets to advance to the main draw after defeating Australia's Chris Kafataris, 6-3, 6-4. Next up for the Japanese is Hong Kong's Ching Lam, as they collide in the first round match of the 32-player draw today at the PIC hard court. Before losing to Watanabe, Kafataris bagged a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Hong Kong's Denton Ho last Sunday.

Law recorded the third straight set victory in the final day of the qualifying tournament with Law outclassing Thailand's Kittikawin Naksaringcarin, 6-2, 6-1. Law, who came off an impressive 6-0, 6-0 win over Japan's Kiichi Ishida last Sunday, will be pitted against Indonesia's Steven Harianto Poe in the first round match today.

Joining Law in the main draw was his fellow Hong Kong player Calloud, who took the long route to victory after eliminating Japan's Eikoh Hayashi in three sets. The Hong Kong junior player notched a 6-3 win in the openings set, but failed to wrap up the match on Court 4 early, as Hayashi recovered with a 6-4 triumph in the second set. In the deciding third set, Calloud regained his bearings and registered a convincing 6-1 victory to punch the last main draw ticket in the boys singles and set up a first round match against Saipan's Vincent Tudela.

Besides Tudela, eight other Saipan junior players will be seeing action in this Grade 5 event. Colin Ramsey will meet fellow Saipan bet Seiya Eda in the first round, Michael Ren will be paired against Hong Kong's Wai Leuk Alan Lee, and Luther Lizama will challenge the No. 8 seed Bernard Bruno Nkomba of Australia. Haruya Eda will also face a seeded foe in No. 7 Ming Chun Alan Sou of Hong Kong, while Amami Sakano has a high-ranked opponent in the fifth-seeded Jack Barber of Australia. Jake Lee is pitted against an unseeded player in the IT&E Junior ITF tournament returnee Jerome Romualdez of the Philippines, while Tommy Choi and Moris Villanueva have tougher debut matches against the No. 2 seed Taisei Miyamoto of Japan and Jack Wong of Hong Kong, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the girls singles division, the CNMI will field seven players. The list includes Negahr Rastguiy, Mikayla Lopez, Tammy Ackerman, Grace Choi, Julia Ishikawa, Ami Tsukagoshi, and Mimi Sakano. They will be facing players from Japan, India, Hong Kong, Guam, Chinese-Taipei, Thailand, Philippines, and Australia. Thailand's Yinglak Jittakoat and Japan's Yuri Katano are the Top 2 seeds in the girls singles draw.

Doubles matches will also be played in the second Junior ITF tournament the CNMI is hosting and matches will be played both at PIC and Kanoa Resort tennis courts. The competition will run until Saturday.

DIGITAL

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scored for Digital Motion with his 25 points, while Barcinas earned 23.

Barcinas drilled 13 of his total points in the fourth quarter, which started with Flip Top still ahead, 53-50. The many-time CNMI National Team member Barcinas scored baskets in streaks at one point in the pivotal fourth and nailed 4 of Digital' last 6 markers, including two free throws to secure the win. Alipio chipped in 8 in the final quarter, while Bernard Montano contributed 4 and finished in twin digits.

Jake Quitugua led Flip Top (1-1) with his 17 markers, while Allen Aguon added 14, with five of them coming in early in the first quarter to lift their team to a 16-12 lead. Favor then changed in the second period, 38-34, as Barcinas and Alipio began to work together and combined for 16 of their 26 points. The seesaw battle continued in the third with Quitugua scoring 8 points to bring Flip Top back into the lead, 53-50. Quitugua was then held to 2 points and no Flip Top players hit more than two field goals in the fourth, while Alipio and Barcinas joined forces anew in handing Digital Motion its first win.

In the second game, Pogi Problems also earned its first victory after routing the Garapan Boys, 71-53.

Pogi, which dropped its opening game against Saipan Ice last week, made the telling blows in the fourth quarter en route to the 18-point win. Ahead by only 8 points at the end of the third canto, 51-43, Pogi worked out a balance offense in the fourth to double up Garapan Boys, 20-10, to notch the twin-digit winning margin. The 20-point output was also the most Pogi recorded in a quarter as it tallied 18, 14, and 19 in the first three periods.

Garapan, which fell to a 0-2 slate, had a good start, firing 17 points, but played flat in the last three cantos, registering 13 markers each in the second and third before nearly failing to break into double figures in the fourth. Garapan connected only on three field goals in the fourth quarter meltdown.

First Game

Digital Motion 75 – Alipio 25, Barcinas 23, Montano 10, Guntar 6, Reyes 2, Gabaldon 2.

Flip Top 69 – Quitugua 17, Aguon 14, Vidal 19, Toribio 12, Isip 6, Sablan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 38-34, 50-53, 75-69.

Second Game

Pogi Problems 71 – Hernaez 19, K. Quemado 16, Lerio 11, Madreo 7, S. Quemado 6, Rivera 6, Abba 2.

Garapan Boys 53 – Concepcion 14, Che 13, Rio 7, Esconde 5, Castro 4, Anasan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 32-30, 51-43, 71-53.

EVALUATION

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Lakhan, who made up the committee, had a two-day site visit on Saipan.

"Following its inspection visit, the council is confident that the CNMI is more than capable of hosting the 2012 Pacific Mini Games and that it fully understands and accepts their responsibilities and obligations in hosting the Games," Lakhan wrote in the report.

The executive director added that the CNMI's bid is compliant with the council's charter, particularly the requirement under Regulation 20 (entry and eligibility conditions). Lakhan added that the CNMI government has agreed to sign a host city contract on July 5 so that an executed agreement with the council will be created immediately. He and Minogue met with Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider during the site visit and the latter assured the visiting officials that the Commonwealth's bid has the full backing of the government.

As for the facilities, the council official noted that only minor works and refurbishments are required.

"Venue and infrastructure development present a minimal risk in the CNMI. The vast majority of the venues are already built and fit for purpose following the hosting of the 2006 Micronesian Games," Lakhan said.

To prove that the current venues are suitable for the competitions in the Mini Games, the CNMI is planning a bid to host the 2018 Micronesian Games and have the regional tournament as a test event.

The CNMI, through the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, also addressed issues on visa requirements in the host island. Delegates need to be U.S. passport holders or have U.S. visa to enter Saipan and in previous NMASA meetings, president Michael White said they are planning to talk to the USCIS to seek a visa waiver agreement only for the duration of the Mini Games.

"In the council's letter to the CNMI PGA (NMASA) prior to the visit, we also raised the affiliation status of certain national federations and the entry visa requirements for the Games. These were both satisfactorily addressed by the PGA," the council president said.

White said NMASA is pleased the CNMI made the grade during the site inspection.

"NMASA is very pleased that PGC president Lakhan and executive director Minogue have confirmed our readiness to host the Games. We look forward to the formal presentation of our bid to the Pacific Games Council in July, and to the awarding of the Games to NMASA and the Northern Mariana Islands," White said in a separate email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The awarding of the 2021 Mini Games will be held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and between now and the July 4-5 general assembly, PGAs can forward inquiries to the CNMI regarding the Mini Games bid and the Commonwealth can also provide progress report about its preparation for the hosting chores.

"The council wishes to sincerely thank the CNMI PGA and the CNMI government for showing such tremendous support for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and we look forward to welcoming their bid delegation to Port Moresby in July," Lakhan said.

2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Father and son Tyce and Blake Mister receive the championship trophy from NMIFA youth league committee official Lydia Tan after Paire U12 defeated MP United in a shootout, 3-2, during the finals of the 2014 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup last Friday at the San Antonio Elementary School Field. Also in the photo is NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta.

Paire and MP Unite players pose for a group photo after their game.

Paire and MP United players exchange high-fives after the title match.

Paire players and coaches huddle after slipping past MP United in the finals.

Game official Glenn Perez instructs players to fall in line to prepare for the shootout.

An MP United player makes a throw-in.

A Paire player kicks the ball, while MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki tries to catch up on defense.

Paire's Kaden Church checks the field before attacking.

An MP United player is guarded by two Paire defenders.

Pujols hits 2 homers to help Angels beat Rays, 6-2

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Pacers pull away from Heat 107-96 to take 1-0 lead

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4 make grade in IT&E tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four survived the qualifying tournament for the boys singles division of the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

South Korea's Yohan Sung, Japan's Yuki Watanabe, and Hong Kong's Ka Wui Wesley Law and Fabien Calloud took the four remaining main draw berths after prevailing in their respective matches in the qualifier yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Sung played on Court 1 and cruised to a 6-0 victory against Japan's Yu Sasaki in the first set. In the second set, Sasaki managed to make it to the board, but still Sung came out the winner, notching a 6-2 triumph to secure the sweep. The win was the second in a row for Sung, as he also swept Japan's Daisuke Sumizawa in the first round of the qualifier, 6-1, 7-5, to keep his

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japan's Yuki Watanabe makes a return from the baseline during his game against Australia's Chris Kafataris in a qualifying tournament for the boys U18 singles division of the 2014 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts. Watanabe won, 6-3, 6-4.

Digital Motion, Pogi bounce back

Digital Motion and Gwap Gang players battle for the rebound during their game in the DLX/IT&E caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Digital Motion lost, but bounced back quickly with a 75-69 victory over Flip Top last Friday.

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REPORTER

Reinforcements came for Digital Motion, as it defeated Flip Top, 75-69, in the first game in the 2013 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Jun Alipio and Dan Barcinas, who both missed Digital Motion's 71-96 debut loss to Gwap Gang last week, showed up in the their team's second game and teamed up in the 6-point victory. Alipio top-

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Evaluation report on CNMI's Mini Games bid turned in

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Oleai track oval is the proposed venue of the athletics competition in the 2012 Pacific Mini Games, which the CNMI is hoping to host.

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REPORTER

The evaluation committee of the Pacific Games Council has turned in the evaluation report on the CNMI's bid to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games to all Pacific Games Association presidents and members of the council's executive board.

The report was forwarded to all the stakeholders on May 8, two days after council executive director Andrew Minogue and council president Vidhya

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